

At least 12 Americans die in missile raid on base, but Silkworm is downed by HMS Gloucester

## Iraq counterattacks fail to slow allies

### Republican Guard tank column leaves bunkers

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE allied onslaught into Iraq and Kuwait gathered pace yesterday, undeterred by the first Iraqi attempts to fight back. These included a missile attack on a military camp in eastern Saudi Arabia which killed at least 12 American soldiers.

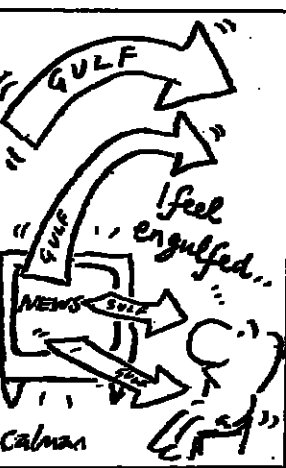
The attack in Khobar City nearly doubled the number of allied casualties since the start of the ground war and was the most deadly of Iraq's missile attacks since Operation Desert Storm began on January 17.

There was no explanation why what was believed to have been a Scud was not intercepted by the US Patriot missile system which protects the Dhahran air base a few miles away.

The attack came after Republican Guard tanks had emerged from the bunkers to move south towards Kuwait for the first time, only to be bombed by American aircraft. Iraq also launched its first Silkworm anti-ship missiles at allied warships in the Gulf, but these were intercepted by Sea Dart missiles fired from the British destroyer, HMS Gloucester.

All the while, the allied offensive continued to gather pace—one reporter said it was as though the ground forces were on fast forward. More and more Iraqi troops were surrendering, so that the number of prisoners of war passed 20,000. The American marine commander, Lieutenant-General Walter Boomer predicted

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that victory against the Iraqis could come "in a matter of days, not weeks".

President Bush again cautioned against over-optimism, however. In a speech at the White House, he said: "Kuwait will soon be free. We have the initiative and we intend to keep it. But we must guard against euphoria. There are battles yet to come and casualties to be borne, but make no mistake, we will prevail."

Tom King, the defence secretary, was also cautious when he addressed the Commons yesterday. "We are entering the critical phase of this land battle," he said. "The news so far has been good. There may be days ahead when it is more difficult."

Mr King said two British soldiers were killed before the offensive, one of whom was believed to have been operating behind enemy lines. The allies yesterday put their death toll in the ground war at seven Saudis, four Americans and one other Arab.

The decision by the Republican Guard to venture south towards the approaching allied formations presented an early opportunity for the allies to strike at President Saddam

Hussein's best-equipped forces, and they destroyed 35 of a convoy 80 T72 tanks. Asked about the clashes with the guard, the American spokesman Brigadier-General Richard Neal said: "They are being beaten." He added: "We are continuing to achieve tremendous success. We are meeting the enemy and we are defeating the enemy." Allied forces had destroyed 270 Iraqi tanks and the only Iraqi success was in "terrorism", he said.

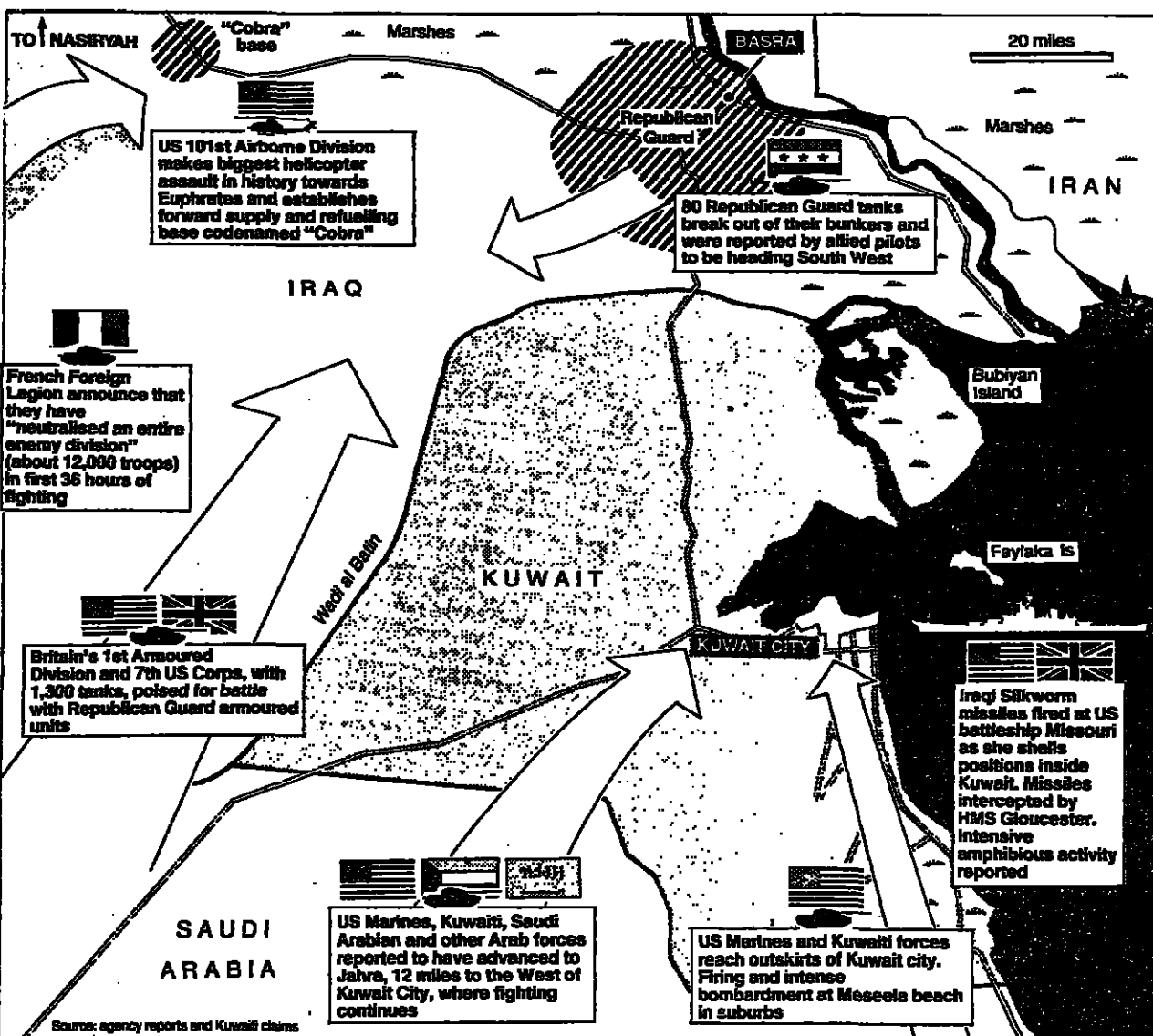
American, British and French tanks and armoured fighting vehicles continued to advance into Iraqi territory yesterday. The 7th Corps, with 1,300 tanks and tens of thousands of men, supported by the 27,000 men and 170 Challenger tanks of Britain's 1st Armoured Division, reached more than 30 miles into Iraq. One company commander described it as "a giant steamroller that's going to go forth and flatten everything in its path".

The American 101st Airborne Division were last night 70 miles inside Iraq in the biggest helicopter-borne operation in history. It was part of a push to establish a strong toehold in Iraqi territory west of Kuwait, to cut supplies to Iraqi forces. Some 4,000 troops from the division will probably be involved in encircling and attacking the Republican Guard in preparation for what could be the biggest tank battle since the second world war. Iraq yesterday called the Republican Guard to battle, urging it to "burn the ground under the feet" of allied forces.

The French column of 10,500 men with 3,000 American troops pushed more than 100 miles into Iraq, meeting scant resistance. General Michel Roquejeoffre, the French commander, announced that his forces had "neutralised an entire enemy division" and taken 3,000 prisoners.

Saudi and other Arab forces also advanced further into Kuwait to within 50 miles of the capital, with only burned and blackened Iraqi trucks and armoured personnel carriers in their way.

Kuwaitis had hoped that their capital would be retaken for their national day yesterday. Their ambassador to Britain said that allied troops Continued on page 22, col 4



### Eagles lay ghost of Vietnam war

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

AS THEY lifted off in the world's largest helicopter operation, the ghosts of Vietnam hovered alongside the 101st Airborne Division in a massive projection of American power into Iraq.

First Sergeant Don Leftwich, a company top sergeant who served as a marine rifleman in Vietnam, explained: "This is a chance to put the Vietnam stigma behind me, and my troops will never have to put up with it."

Sergeant Mike Southall, a Texan member of the division, said: "We would walk through the gates of hell if we knew we were going home."

He was about to board a Chinook helicopter that would whisk him, along with 2,000 other servicemen, 50 vehicles and cannon and tons Continued on page 22, col 4

of fuel and ammunition more than 50 miles inside Iraq, to establish what the Americans are calling "Forward Base Cobra".

Sunday's boldly conceived operation, involving some 300 US helicopters in the largest such air assault in history, is being compared in scale by members of the 101st (universally referred to as "The Screaming Eagles") to landings at Normandy in 1944.

The move, designed to cut off Iraqi supply lines and to give the US force the option of threatening Baghdad, marked the first time that the US Army put into practice its concept of an air-land war. It is also believed to be the first time that American women pilots have flown combat missions. Some of the division's 22 women pilots were at the controls.

Apache helicopters, flying less than 15 ft off the ground and armed with Hellfire anti-tank missiles, led the attack, which was backed up to the west by a strike of the French force.

"This is a bold, bodacious action," said Major Dan Grigson, spokesman for the 101st, launching another dubious word into the war's lexicon.

Comparing the move with the Normandy action, officers said that the flying time and the division's contribution of men were roughly similar.

"The only difference," said Major Robert Sellers, commander of a logistics wing, "there was no water and we were moving in helicopters, not gliders."

The operation, to move the men and their curiously shaped Humvee vehicles carrying TOW anti-tank missiles deep into Iraq en route for the mighty Euphrates river, took some three hours to complete. The American Continued on page 22, col 3

### British soldier dies in action

By ALICE THOMSON

A BRITISH soldier, understood to have been with a unit operating behind enemy lines, was killed in the run-up to the ground war, the defence ministry said yesterday. His death in action is the first of a British soldier to be formally announced.

David Denbury, aged 26, from Ponthir, near Newport, Gwent, a corporal with the Royal Engineers, died last Thursday.

A second soldier, Paul Patrick Keegan, aged 20, a Royal Artillery gunner, was killed in an accident in the run-up to the ground war, according to the defence ministry. His family live in Liverpool.

The death of the two British soldiers was announced to the Commons by Tom King, the defence secretary, who said that there had been no British casualties to date in the main offensive. However, he said: "There may be days ahead when it is more difficult."

Village mourns, page 5

### Birmingham Six will be free within weeks

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Birmingham Six are expected to be free within weeks after the announcement yesterday from Sir Allen Green QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, that their convictions can no longer be considered safe and satisfactory. After 17 years in prison the six are on the verge of winning the long struggle for their release.

Last night, there was jubilation and hope among the families and supporters of the six. The government of the Irish Republic issued a statement saying that it shared the relief and joy felt by campaigners and was heartened by the development.

One of the six, Hugh Callaghan, was allowed yesterday

by prison authorities to take part from Long Lartin prison in a live radio show broadcast by RTE, the Irish state radio. He said: "I had a good idea things were going to go the way they did today. It should have happened a long time ago."

"It has been known for years and years that we were innocent people. Money cannot make up for all those years. I do not think about it, and never have done over the years. I just did not doubt that the truth would come out."

Callaghan said that all six would be together for the final court hearing at the Central Criminal Court. They wanted to walk free together. The other five are Patrick Hill,

Gerry Hunter, Richard McKenny, Billy Power and Johnny Walker.

The third appeal by the six will be heard in the Court of Appeal next week and the men, convicted in 1975 for an IRA attack on Birmingham public houses in November 1974 that killed 21 people, could be free within the next few weeks. The court will hear all the new material gathered in the past year on the scientific and police evidence against the six. It was the police evidence that finally drove the DPP to throw in his hand at a preliminary hearing held by the court yesterday.

Disputed evidence, page 10  
Leading article, page 15

### IRA bombs railway line

The Provisional IRA was blamed yesterday for a bomb attack on the London Midland railway at St Albans, minutes before a crowded InterCity train was due to pass.

The explosion meant that 17,000 commuters suffered delays. Page 10  
Photographs, page 22

### £36m for jails

A £36 million programme to end slopping out in jails in England and Wales was announced as part of the government's immediate response to the report by Lord Justice Woolf, above, into the 1990 prison riots. Page 22  
Poor conditions, page 9

### Pact laid to rest

The Warsaw Pact was laid to rest when foreign and defence ministers of the six member states signed the agreement to scrap its military command. Page 11

### £19m prize

Daks Simpson, the tailor, is to be sold to the Japanese. Georgina Andrews, granddaughter of Simeon Simpson, the group's founder, will receive £19.4 million. Page 23  
Touch of class, page 25

### Rate hopes fall

Volatile trading in oil raised the headline trade deficit to £1.23 billion in January, temporarily dashing hopes of an immediate cut in bank base rates. Page 23

### Amnesty warning

Iraqis and Palestinians detained in Britain have fewer rights than Iraqi prisoners of war in the Gulf, a former Amnesty International director writes in today's Legal Brief. Page 30

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Battle scarred: Egyptian soldiers tending their own wounded in Kuwait yesterday

### Harbinger of disaster springs a new surprise

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

HALLEY'S comet, once seen as a harbinger of disaster, has performed a new trick to bewilder astronomers. It has produced a major eruption of dust and is shining almost 300 times more brightly than expected.

The two Belgian astronomers who first observed what was happening could hardly believe it. On February 12 Olivier Hainaut and Alain Smette were looking at Halley's Comet through a Danish telescope at the European Southern Observatory in La Silla, in Chile when a brilliant object appeared. Further observation showed that the image was moving in the same direction and with the same speed as Halley's comet. There was no doubt that the comet had erupted, throwing off a huge amount of

material. This appears to be mostly dust, which is reflecting sunlight.

In 1986 the Giotto spacecraft showed that the nucleus of Halley's comet is shaped like an avocado ten miles long and about four miles across. Its interior is ice mixed with grains of dust. As it passes near the Sun the ice melts and the dust escapes,

and the comet's tail is created. It is then that it can be seen from Earth.

In 1186 it was believed to foretell the death of Agrippa, the Roman statesman. In AD 666 it was said to have "hung over Jerusalem in the figure of a sword" before the Romans destroyed the city, and in 1066 it appeared before the battle of Hasting.



They marvel at the star: the Bayeux Tapestry's version

It returns every 76 years, an orbit first established by Astronomer Royal Edmund Halley. At its present distance of 1,300 million miles from the Sun, the surface of the comet is about -200C and its ice is frozen solid. So what has caused the eruption? One theory is that the comet has collided with another small object, smashing the crust and throwing off a quantity of dust. That, however, cannot easily explain why the outflow should continue steadily, as it is doing.

A second theory suggests there may be energy stored in the comet which has been released suddenly, but that would require a new theory of cometary structure. Finally, it may be that energetic particles from the Sun have triggered the eruption. At the great distances involved, that seems doubtful. Astronomers yesterday said they did not know the answer.

### Two-tier plan for universities

By JOHN O'LEARY  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
CORRESPONDENT

SIX universities and five London colleges are to be given special treatment to enable them to cope with plans, to be announced today, which will move towards the establishment of an elite group of institutions.

Several of the universities that suffered the heaviest cuts in the 1980s face badly in the Universities Funding Council's (UFC) allocations for 1991-2, which will shape their development for four years.

The most successful universities, including Sheffield, Warwick and York, will have their budgets increased by up to 20 per cent.

Elite universities, page 7

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## KUWAIT

# Occupying forces kill women and children

By MICHAEL BINYON AND MICHAEL KNIFE

IRAQI troops are murdering Kuwaiti children, killing people with axes and hanging bodies in the streets of the emirate. Lieutenant-General Khaled bin Sultan, the commander of the Arab forces, said in Riyadh yesterday.

The general, a member of the Saudi royal family, said that there was increasing evidence that President Saddam Hussein, who was given an opportunity to withdraw from Kuwait, had instead "begun to systematically destroy Kuwait and murder its people."

"We warn all who have taken part in the many crimes against civilians in Kuwait, whether rape, murder or torture, that they will be held responsible before an international court of justice and will be treated as criminals of war," Prince Khaled said.

There were horrible things going on, he added. "I hate to

say it, but there is killing of people by axes, hitting their heads... they rape females, cut certain parts of them, and hang them in every street... We hope to stop it soon."

Asked if he had a message for the Kuwaiti people, he said: "We will be there soon, very soon."

The British government has also received gruesome reports of torture of Kuwaiti civilians, who were kidnapped at random by Iraqi soldiers and executed by barbaric means. The accounts of the atrocities coincide with reports from Kuwaiti exiles in France that cholera has broken out in the emirate because the Iraqi authorities would not allow the dead to be buried.

Kuwaitis in exile marked their country's national day yesterday with vigils and fasting and prayers for a quick allied victory. About 250 Kuwaitis gathered outside their embassy in central London for a two-hour vigil and held a minute's silence in memory of friends and relatives killed by the Iraqi troops.

Others visited the Foreign Office to present a map of Kuwait to Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, as a mark of appreciation for Britain's role in the war to liberate the emirate. In anticipation of a speedy allied advance into Kuwait City, one member of the Kuwaiti royal family ordered 1,000 T-shirts and sweatshirts to be printed with the slogan "Kuwait is Free" from a London shop. He requested that they be ready by midday.

In Paris, Tarek Razouki, the Kuwaiti ambassador, said Kuwaiti and American administrators were ready to set up a civil administration to re-establish all public services as soon as allied troops took full control of the emirate. In Saudi Arabia, members of the Kuwaiti government in exile were making plans to move from Taif to Dhahran, 200 miles south of Kuwait, in readiness for the return home.

The reports of atrocities, received in Whitehall, tell of Kuwaitis being decapitated or having their heads split open with an axe. Others had their eyes gouged out, women had their breasts sliced off, bodies were marked with swastikas and holes by electric drills.

The reports have come from a variety of sources, including Kuwaitis who have been able to telephone abroad clandestinely via satellite links, as well as from reliable sources inside neighbouring states. Britain believes the torture appears to be a deliberate act, organised and orchestrated by Saddam's government as part of its scorched-earth policy.

About 50,000 Kuwaiti men, aged between 15 and 40, have already been rounded up and sent to Iraq. Other reports said those snatched off the streets could buy their freedom by paying 10,000 Iraqi dinars (£16,800) to their captors.

Those without the money are sent to Iraqi installations for use as human shields against allied attacks. The reports say kidnappings have increased substantially since the start of the land war.

The allies are expected to press very strongly for the immediate release of all kidnapped Kuwaitis along with all other prisoners of war as soon as Iraq is defeated.

## FRANCE

## Armour advanced like knife in butter

From JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

FRENCH armoured units sliced through Iraqi troops like a knife through butter yesterday, taking 3,000 prisoners and neutralising a division of President Saddam Hussein's infantry, General Michel Roquejeoffre, France's Gulf commander said.

He added that 9,000 men from his contingent, spearheaded by Foreign Legion AMX10 tanks, had pushed about 100 miles into Iraq since Sunday.

Le Figaro quoted a French lieutenant who said: "It is a beautiful adventure. Let us hope that it lasts." TFI television said that French forces exchanged mortar and artillery fire with Iraqi troops dug into a fortified stronghold during a battle codenamed "Rochambeau" after a French commander in the American war of independence.

Gazelle helicopter gunships attacked the Iraqi troops with Hot air-to-ground missiles during the battle, which lasted for several hours. The Iraqis remained in their positions for some time, but finally surrendered when tanks from the 4th Dragons charged their positions, according to the TFI account.

A Gazelle pilot described how he hit three Iraqi tanks with Hot missiles during a reconnaissance mission. "Certainly it was not pleasant," he told Le Monde. "But it was them or me. And then it was not me who invaded the country."

● Kuwait to pay: The foreign ministry announced yesterday that Kuwait has promised to pay France 5 billion francs (£500 million), almost half of French costs in the war. The ministry said the exiled Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, told President Mitterrand that Kuwait was making the contribution to repay French efforts to liberate his country. (AP)

## Supply operation leapfrogs troops

By OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

TROOPS of the US 101st Airborne Division have been ferried into the war zone ahead of the tanks to establish the fuel supply depots needed by the allies for their vast resupply operation. Military logistic specialists yesterday described the procedure as novel.

Colonel Andrew Duncan, of the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London, said that once an area had been cleared of Iraqi forces, 2,000 men were taken by helicopter up to 70 miles into the desert. Some convoys of fuel tankers and lorries also preceded the main tank columns, he said. Leap-frogging supplies to advancing troops was not unusual, but sending them well ahead of the main battle contingents was new.

Big rubber fuel containers were bounced out of helicopters along the planned

route of the advance to store the large quantities of fuel required to replenish the tanks and their support vehicles. Yesterday thousands of fuel tankers, lorries carrying ammunition and a variety of specialised vehicles were reported to be crowding the east-west supply route near the front line. Advancing troops require three main types of supplies: food and water, ammunition, and fuel.

The frontline troops will be carrying enough food and water with them to be self-sufficient for at least 48 hours. Ammunition requirements will depend on how much they use. The faster they proceed, the less resistance they are likely to have encountered and the less ammunition they will have had to use. Fuel is the biggest problem because it is being used in such large quantities.



Helping hand: an American marine receiving expert medical attention at Fleet Hospital No 5, one of the well-equipped field hospitals behind the front lines, after he was wounded by shrapnel from a booby trap on Sunday, the first day of the allied ground assault to liberate Kuwait

## Allies entering crucial phase of the war

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

IF THE liberation of Kuwait is to be a short-lived campaign, the allies are now entering the crucial phase. After the drama of the first day's unresisted thrusts across the Kuwaiti and Iraqi borders, the allied forces are faced with two key objectives. Once achieved, the battle for Kuwait will be over, although the mopping up operation will have to continue for months.

The objectives are the defeat of the Republican Guard and the seizure of Kuwait City. To everyone's surprise, these two goals could be within the allies' grasp much earlier than expected. A senior American military official who shed some light on the news blackout yesterday, as well as French and Saudi spokesmen who said that the ground war plan was continuing as scheduled, helped to portray the overall picture of

an allied advance sweeping all before it. Although there was more sustained resistance from some Iraqi units, the momentum of the allied push appeared to have been unchecked.

During the next few days, however, the brilliance of Lieutenant-General William Pagonis, the Greek-born American commander of the logistical side of Operation Desert Storm, will be tested to the extreme. The faster the advance by American armoured and infantry divisions, the faster his supply trucks will have to cross the desert to ensure that the momentum can be maintained. The further the tanks advance, the longer the supply line.

Pagonis, who started the allied campaign as a major-general and was promoted in the field for his achievements, will have masterminded the

logistical challenge with his usual eye for detail. However, could the rapid advance stretch the system just when the Republican Guard decide to confront the allies?

The American M1 Abrams gas-turbine tanks are particularly thirsty and have to be regularly topped up with fuel. However, the Pagonis supply line would seem to be more than adequate to cope with the challenge of a big tank battle. The Americans, with so many divisions in the field, at least have the option of switching fuel supplies from one formation to another.

The most generously supplied unit is probably Britain's 1st Armoured Division which has brought enough fuel and ammunition into the field to last for weeks. Combat sustainability is a watchword for British military campaigns. Will there, however, be a

classic tank battle, predicted by so many experts before the land offensive began? Judging by the level of ignorance displayed by the average Iraqi soldier of the force that has been confronting them across the Kuwait border all these months, it seems hard to believe that Saddam's huge army will be capable of mounting a credible counter-offensive. Even the Republican Guard are adopting tactics which do not bode well for their future.

Why did 80 of their tanks emerge yesterday in daylight to advance south towards the approaching allied forces? The answer is quite simple. The Republican Guard were following traditional Soviet tactics: first, a battalion-size unit appears as an advance party to seek out the enemy, followed by a brigade which clears a path for the main counter-

offensive force. While that tactic might have worked in the war with Iran, it is suicidal in a war of this kind, when the allies have air supremacy. As they emerge, so they can be picked off one by one by A10 tank-busters and US marine Harriers, armed with cluster bombs. This is what happened yesterday.

The Republican Guard should have waited in their strong defensive positions south of Basra, choosing their moment to regroup for a counter-offensive when it was to their advantage. The appearance of the advance party, if that is what it was, down the highway from Basra was either an indication of their ignorance or an act of desperation on Saddam Hussein's part to get his best troops involved before they were overrun by the allies.

But if that was his fear, it makes no sense. Since the frontline Iraqi troops have been overwhelmed without much of a fight, it would be far safer for the Republican Guard to take on the allies from their defensive positions. That way, they could deny the allies the quick victory they believe is now within their grasp.

Although it seems incredible with all the publicity that has been generated around the world about the mighty American-led coalition forces building up in Saudi Arabia, there have even been stories of Iraqi soldiers surrendering and claiming ignorance of the fact that they were fighting the Americans. Whether that is apocryphal or not, there is plenty of evidence to show that the Iraqi soldiers and the Iraqi people still have no real idea what their leader has taken on. People in Baghdad shown pictures of surrendering Iraqi soldiers walking in long columns away from the battlefield, thought they were Egyptians dressed up to look like Iraqi infantrymen.

There is a clear message here. Saddam and his information ministry are succeeding in blinding the Iraqi people. In spite of the bombing they have suffered and the damage they can see across the country, they probably believe that the Iraqi army is winning the ground war.

If Washington and London want the war to end with the overthrow of Saddam, preferably by his own people, they will have to convince the average Iraqi citizen with an intensive publicity campaign that their president is leading them towards a humiliating defeat.

## NAVY

## Swift reaction thwarts Silkorm missile attack

From JAMIE DETTNER ON BOARD HMS GLOUCESTER

HMS GLOUCESTER yesterday shot down an Iraqi Silkorm anti-ship missile which was within a few miles of hitting one of the allied warships in the northern Gulf.

The missile attack was mounted shortly after sustained bombardment of Iraqi positions along the Kuwaiti coast by the USS Missouri, the American battleship.

Action stations were called on HMS Gloucester, a type 42 destroyer, at 4.50am local time (1.50am GMT) when radar operators detected the missile as it closed on allied ships at high speed. Gloucester juddered twice as two surface-to-air Sea Dart missiles were fired at the Silkorm. Officers braced for a possible impact.

Royal Marines on the ship's gun deck said they saw a bright blue flash as a Sea Dart hit the three-ton Silkorm. "I didn't know what to do," said a marine later. "I was on the flight deck and saw the Sea Darts go off. I didn't know whether I should lie down or not."

Eight hours earlier Commander Philip Wilcock, Gloucester's captain, had warned the crew of a possible Silkorm attack. "Be ready, be alert, be vigilant," he said

on the ship's public address system. Commander Wilcock said after the missile attack: "We had a fast, very fast, low-flying contact coming off the Kuwaiti coast. It was very low, fire control radars locked on to it. Our perception was that it was a missile coming towards us and we engaged it with two of our Sea Dart missiles which intercepted and destroyed it. The missile teams had very little time to react. Luckily they

were good, swift and responsive." The Sea Dart missiles were fired by Petty Officer John Roberts. "I only had seconds to fire the missiles. All I could think about was, 'I don't want to be here,'" he said. The officer on watch during the attack, Lieutenant Steve Powell, shouted with relief afterwards. "That was tremendous, incredible," he said. (This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)



## AIR ASSAULT

## Low cloud hinders pilots

From LIN JENKINS WITH THE RAF IN THE GULF

JAGUAR pilots met with mixed success yesterday in support of ground troops as low cloud forced some to return with their bombs.

Wing Commander Bill Finton, leader of the Jaguar Squadron on the largest RAF base, said that they may as well have stayed in the crew room. The risk to allied troops of dropping bombs when the target could not be properly identified because of the weather was too great to risk, in spite of the savings to life if an attack is on target.

"The common phrase in the crew room is that every bomb that hits is one or two less of our soldiers that are probably going to have to die to take that target," Wing Commander Finton said. "It is just bloody frustrating that you can't get to your target."

Flt Lt Edward Stringer, another pilot of the single-seater fast jet whose mission was hampered by cloud, said: "Now you are talking about pot shots at targets which come at 10 seconds in front of you. It is risking your own forces."

(This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

## Threat to journalists in move to stop independent coverage

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

JOURNALISTS have been told that they risk being shot or deported if they come within 62 miles of the Saudi/Kuwait border without a military minder - an attempt to tighten restrictions on independent coverage of the war.

The latest clamp on news organisations attempting to provide a non-official view of the conflict is expected to create fresh controversy in America, Britain and elsewhere, where there are still attempts to force a lifting of earlier, less rigid, guidelines. The new orders, listed in separate notices by the American and Saudi authorities here, have intensified the battle between them and the 700 journalists known as "the unilateralists" because they do

not belong to the closely-controlled military pool system.

The memorandum, drawn up by the Pentagon, cites "operational and safety" reasons for a warning, underlined in red ink, that journalists attempting "unilateral coverage" would not be permitted access to any fighting units and risked being shot by allied troops. "Unescorted reporters travelling into a battlefield could be mistaken as a threat to the safety of those troops and be brought under fire," the American military said. The first time it has hinted that orders might involve firing at journalists.

The memorandum, accompanied yesterday by reports that a media vehicle attempting to cross into Kuwait had had its tyres shot out and its occupants arrested, added: "Coalition troops have extensive

intelligence on where to expect minefields and areas of booby traps. Unescorted media personnel will be in danger if they try to traverse these extensive fields without the aid of this intelligence. Additionally, unescorted personnel risk being taken under fire or captured by Iraqi forces if they attempt to pursue unilateral coverage of forward areas."

A US Navy captain in the joint information bureau said: "These instructions come from the Pentagon and are meant to let you know that we mean business. Anyone caught on the road to these places will be arrested and handed over to the Saudis."

The Saudi government statement said: "It has been noticed that some members of the media are travelling to restricted and military areas without escorts. This could present a

danger to themselves and to the lives of troops by attracting attention to their locations." Under the restrictions, "non-pool and unescorted civilian media" are barred from approaching within 62 miles of the border around the Saudi town of Kaffi, some of the first land battle of the war, or the other main Saudi border town of Haifa al-Batin, which some reporters have used as a base.

The rules, backed by a threat of deportation, made more potent because Saudi Arabia will be the only route by which journalists will be able to gain access to Kuwait in the early weeks of its liberation, also ban the use of portable satellite telephones or dishes in any location not approved in writing by the ministry of information. They prohibit non-escorted journalists from wearing military uniforms or "military-style nuclear, biological and chemical suits" except "during an actual alert". In the tradition of Evelyn Waugh's *Scoop*, many reporters have been disguising themselves in army uniforms to trick Saudi road blocks aimed at preventing unilateral reporting.

Crews from BBC, ITV, Sky Television and some French channels as well as journalists from papers including the *New York Times* and *Daily Mail* have been arrested and had their credentials, which are vital to remain in Saudi Arabia, seized, but later returned. "The Saudis were originally going to let in only 23 Western journalists, but they have ended up with 1,014," said the American captain. "I think this is an indication they are looking towards cutting down that number fast now the war is nearly over."

## KUWAITI BORDER

## Rush to get Iraq PoWs in desert camps

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

EVERY suitable bus and truck in Saudi Arabia was being rushed to the Kuwaiti border yesterday to remove the 20,000 Iraqi prisoners of war to special camps erected in the Saudi desert.

The demoralised, frontline Iraqi PoWs - many of whom gave up without a fight and some of whom warmly embraced their American, French and Arab captors - were among the most potent symbols of the early success of the allied campaign. Some allied officers complained that the sheer numbers of Iraqis surrendering was holding up the pace of the allied sweep towards occupied Kuwait City.

Commenting on the condition of those who gave themselves up to the fast-moving United States Second Marine Division, Lieutenant-Colonel Jan Huty said: "Their morale is about boot-top level: they have none."

According to allied sources, the main reason for the rush to surrender - demonstrated by the endless line of PoWs trudging nearly across the sand - was the relentless air assault they had suffered for the past month. "There was also the fact they did not really believe in what they were supposed to be fighting for," one official explained.

Preparations have been made to receive 100,000 PoWs in Saudi Arabia, but few officers expected the numbers to grow quite so quickly. Efforts will be made to issue all with gas masks to cope with possible future Iraqi chemical attacks.

As the numbers of prisoners continued to grow last night, Western diplomats said if President Saddam Hussein remained in power, the PoWs could pose a serious problem as the vast majority may not want to return to Iraq and face the punishment reserved for men suspected of deserting.

"If there was a change at the top, we can assume all these men would be anxious to go home," one diplomat said. "But if Saddam and his henchmen are still there, most may prefer to become political refugees."

The International Committee of the Red Cross has issued an appeal to all parties in the Gulf to respect the Geneva Convention. It said it was planning to increase its staff of 20 delegates, now based in Saudi Arabia, to cope with the influx.

Britain has sent men from three famous regiments - the Coldstream Guards, the King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Royal Highland Fusiliers - specifically to run one PoW camp capable of housing 15,000 Iraqis in a tented village guarded by watchtowers.

In all the camps, attempts will be made to meet Islamic dietary requirements (500,000 ready-packed vegetarian meals are stocked at the British-run compound). Facilities will also be provided for Iraqi Christians to enjoy freedom of worship.

Visitors to the British camp, known as "One Div PoW Camp", claimed that conditions in it were superior to those enjoyed by soldiers who have been waiting in the inhospitable Saudi desert for the past six months.

Portable toilets and shower units unavailable to the Desert Rats have been arranged, as have good medical facilities.

The British army has flown in 20 Kuwaiti students from London to help interpret and to process the PoWs. One of them, Adel al-Mukhaizin, aged 19, said: "Although my country has been overrun by Iraq, I will keep my emotions in check."





End of the road: an Egyptian light armoured vehicle detonates an Iraqi mine somewhere in Kuwait, left, and Iraqi soldiers wave white flags to surrender to Egyptian troops



## 'We want to keep him rocked back on his heels'

From Keith Dorkants with the 1st Armoured Division in former Iraqi-held territory

AMERICAN troops stuck a gaily painted welcome sign at the gap in the border, although they were the ones who were welcomed. Iraqi soldiers greeted them with open arms, fell at their feet or kissed their hands and wept with gratitude for their deliverance.

So began a day of blitzkrieg and bewildering ironies, a day on which the ground war started and yet, somehow, did not. Travelling with British forces through a breach in the northern Saudi border, I saw how the speed of the advance had taken even the allies by surprise. As we drove along one of many routes cut deep into territory held just hours before by the Iraqis, I saw units going forward far ahead of schedule.

It was as if the generals had put the plan on fast forward. American and British armour was rushing towards the breach and positions where they had been expected to fight a fierce battle. Instead they were fighting their way through convoys of lorries carrying happy, smiling Iraqi soldiers waving ecstatic peace signs, heading for their first proper meal in weeks.

British gunners had been briefed to join the biggest artillery barrage since the second world war, a bombardment aimed at sapping the last ounce of resistance from the men in the trenches. But most of them were no longer in the trenches. They had rushed eagerly towards the advancing American infantrymen clanking "How to Surrender" leaflets that had been dropped in allied bombing raids. It was kind of embarrassing, one American sergeant said, but it was nice.

Hundreds of prisoners were taken in our sector but there was still some fight left among men who had endured the bombing campaign and days without food or water. They opened fire with machineguns and rifles and in one area an armoured squadron engaged advancing troops. The 1st

On the second day of the ground offensive, Western correspondents with frontline units report back on the triumphs and tragedies of a war where enemy prisoners weep with relief and the action seems to be on fast forward

Division's artillery switched its guns from strategic installations to targets among these scattered, stubborn units.

As reconnaissance teams pinpointed the resistance, the howitzers opened up. It did not take long. The big guns fired in batteries, converging their shells into areas the size of a suburban garden, leaving the earth and everything in it a powdered, blackened blot.

The men in Quebec Battery, named after a battle honour awarded nearly 250 years ago, had done this before. The breathless awe that attended their first barrage against human targets last week during the so-called battlefield preparation had gone. They were blooded now and went about their work with a cool efficiency.

Gun Commander Paul Routley talked about how he had brought down fire on to infantry defiles, describing impassively the extraordinary blast effect of the shells they were using.

The barrel of the gun was still hot, but there was nothing left to shoot at now, and he was making supper for his men. They had not eaten since breakfast and he had opened tins of stewed steak, chicken soup, carrots and fruit salad and had put everything into one huge pot slung on a burner under the gun-carriage. "Try it," he urged me. "The fruit salad makes all the difference."

The gunners had been expecting to fire for two hours to further prepare the battlefield. But, as the Iraqis surrendered and the Americans swept northwards, this plan was abandoned, and they fired for just 30 minutes, 12 hours before the original time.

Things had gone better than expected, said the division's artillery commander, Brigadier Ian Dury. He is a charismatic man, a devout

Christian whose steady speech shows no trace of pride about the fact that his men have spearheaded Britain's role in the ground war.

Brigadier Dury carries a shepherd's crook which his soldiers call his rhythm stick after the song once written by his near-namesake, Ian Dury. The stick beat out a deadly rhythm yesterday.

The brigadier ran his end of the battle with the kind of taut precision for which he is known, and as he spoke the deep roar of his guns could be heard on the edge of the battlefield. "We fired in support of the US infantry and at the moment resistance is very small."

"[The Iraqi troops] are giving themselves up in droves. I am pleasantly surprised, but we want to keep the momentum going. We want to keep him rocked back on his heels," he said. Commanders always call the Iraqis "he" or "him". It gives them a touch of the gladiatorial.

But Brigadier Dury does not see the frontline Iraqis as a fair match. "They are, to use an old-fashioned phrase, cannon fodder. There was always expectation that the troops in the front line were not of the best, although we didn't expect them to crumble as quickly as this."

He thinks the real battle lies ahead, when Iraq's mobile troops move to check the allied advance. General Rupert Smith, the British field commander in Saudi Arabia, agrees. He was with the brigadier yesterday at the artillery headquarters set up north of the Saudi border. The two men discussed the day's fighting and their coming strategy.

General Smith cautioned against too much optimism in the wake of what was perceived as a surprisingly easy first day. "We have a long way

to go yet. This is but a beginning," he said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Marwood, commander of an artillery regiment, watched his men as they rested after another barrage. "I find this all a bit unreal. We dare not assume that it's going to be like this all the way. The soldiers are very confident, but that doesn't matter so much. I just hope the commanders don't get over-confident," he said.

The gun crews had seen out the first day without taking incoming fire or casualties. They were not just confident, they were cock-a-hoop.

The man I was travelling with, Sergeant-Major Malcolm Hagan, grinned at the boys on the gun. On May 21, 1982, he had landed with the first British troops in the Falklands and he knows what it is to be on the receiving end of a shellfire.

"They are full of it now," he said, nodding at the lads as they twined their flag heroically. "But there is a long way to go and I hope they can cope when they see their mate lying in front of them with half his head missing. Some won't be able to take it. The amazing thing is that so many can."

### Bird's-eye view of the battlefield

From Edith Lederer of Associated Press in central Saudi Arabia

ALLIED pilots who took the centre stage during the five-and-a-half-week air war in the Gulf now share the spotlight with tens of thousands of comrades-in-arms on the battlefield below. The pilots, now that the ground war has begun, are closely monitoring Iraqi

troop movements that could signal that President Saddam Hussein's forces are ready to begin fighting back in earnest.

American pilots interviewed yesterday said Iraq's best troops, the Republican Guard, were coming out of their bunkers and moving towards allied forces. The pilots also described their bird's-eye view of the blazing zigzag of fuel-filled ditches set up by the Iraqis as part of their line of defence, and told of large columns of allied vehicles kicking up dust clouds as they rapidly advanced.

The pilots said American troops firing artillery rounds had advanced about 30 miles into Iraq by early yesterday, pounding Iraqi forces who offered little resistance. Describing the allied advance, Captain John Sizemore compared it to a row of ants coming from a giant peanut butter-and-jam sandwich.

The pilots, at the largest American air base in Saudi Arabia, gave some details to back up allied claims of success, including accounts of elements of Iraq's Republican Guard being driven from their bunkers in Kuwait and southern Iraq. "They're finally flushing," said Lieutenant-Colonel Steve Turner, who commands a squadron of F15E fighter-bombers. "They have got to do something, either that or get killed in their holes." He estimated that there were about 80 tanks moving southeast and southwest towards allied forces.

Allied aircraft have been pounding Republican Guard positions for weeks because coalition commanders expect the guard to mount Iraq's strongest resistance to the allied advance. Colonel Turner said the long months of the embargo on trade with Iraq, combined with relentless aerial bombing, had weakened Iraq in advance of the offensive but had not dislodged its dug-in troops.

Captain Mark Alred, who flew an F15E mission on Sunday night to blow up a bridge near Basra, the south-eastern Iraqi city from which Iraqi operations in the Kuwait

theatre are directed, said: "The tanks and stuff I saw were probably... 25 to 35 miles north of the border."

Other F15E fighter-bombers were hitting bridges in that area of southern Iraq.

Captain Alred also flew above the forward line of advancing allied forces in Iraq, where he saw American troops sending shells north towards Iraqi positions. He said his plane was fired on by batteries of anti-aircraft guns. (This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

### Iraqi troops hoped battle was averted

From Adam Kellihier in Ruwished on the Iraqi-Jordanian border

IRAQI forces in Kuwait City last week celebrated Moscow's peace initiative because they thought it would get them home, but are now braced for the allied ground assault behind a honeycomb of defences created within residential areas and civilian buildings, refugees said yesterday.

Latest arrivals in Jordan, some of whom left Kuwait only hours before the allied ground attack started, said residents had asked Iraqi authorities to appeal to the Red Cross for assistance in evacuating the remaining civilians, but had so far received no response.

The refugees described a journey through the emirate past blazing oil wells and beneath smoke-filled skies. Allied air assaults were incessant in and around Kuwait City, especially at the Shuwaikh port and industrial area, they said, in some of the first accounts independent of control by Baghdad and the coalition.

During interviews with at

least two dozen arrivals, mostly Palestinians and Jordanians, none was able to confirm claims by the coalition that Iraqi soldiers were systematically shipping out thousands of Kuwaiti men and had executed hundreds.

They said security had tightened and that more troops were seen throughout the city, but none said they saw any outward signs of demoralisation or weakening among Baghdad's forces.

However, they reported despair among an estimated 250,000 civilians remaining from the pre-invasion population of 1.3 million, many of whom cannot flee because petrol is no longer available.

Hassan Mohammad Hussein, a surveyor aged 27, said: "People are terrified. They think that 31 countries are going to bring their armies... and they are all going to die inside Kuwait City." Mr Hussein said anti-aircraft guns had been positioned on high-rise buildings, including schools and hospitals. Armour had been concealed inside private houses and trenches dug throughout residential areas in preparation for house-to-house fighting. Shortly before a police officer stopped him from talking to reporters at the Ruwished frontier post, he said: "They are hiding their guns. You only see them when they fire at night."

All the arrivals said they witnessed spontaneous celebrations last Tuesday and Wednesday, when Iraqi troops misinterpreted the later spurned Soviet peace initiative to mean they were going to withdraw and would not have to fight. "They were so happy and shooting in the air," said Ghazi Zaytun, aged 45 and a Palestinian trader. "They said 'It's peace, let's go back home'." The soldiers soon slipped back into a mood of stoic resignation as the ground war approached.

Flocks of sheep and large quantities of live chickens were shipped in from Iraq in preparation for the battle.

Refugees said they had seen at least 50 oil wells ablaze, as well as Kuwaiti storage facilities.

### Airborne units slice northward

From Aernout van Lynden of Sky News in the Iraqi desert

AIRBORNE troops dropped deep into Iraq and dug in, and encountering little opposition, I found when I went farther north than any other Western journalist and joined frontline American units there.

I flew inside Iraq with lightly armed units of the US Army's 101st Airborne Division in the second phase of attack helicopters bringing fuel and ammunition to the troops already in place. We were told that we were more than 100 miles inside Iraq, halfway to the Euphrates.

The troops said they had encountered some opposition but it had been very light, and the moment they started shooting back their impression was that the Iraqis turned tail and fled north. Basically, they were unopposed. They had taken their position deep into Iraq. They were confident they could fulfil their part of Desert Storm quite easily.

About 4,000 troops of the 101st Airborne Division have landed in Iraq, where they hope to encircle and isolate Republican Guard soldiers at a strategic reserve near Basra. I saw long convoys of lorries and armoured personnel carriers bringing supplies north over the desert, completely unopposed.



Scrap heap: French officers inspecting the ruin of an Iraqi tank which had been destroyed by allied action during the land battle. It became another statistic of the war as coalition columns, thrusting into the Iraqi homeland to engage Saddam's forces, inflicted mounting damage

### IRAQ

## Fear of cholera and typhoid epidemics stalks Baghdad

From ALAN MCGREGOR in Geneva

BAGHDAD residents are forced to draw water from the Tigris, the sewage system has been disrupted, diarrhoea has increased fourfold among children and there is no electricity, Dr Anneke Verster, a Dutch nutritionist from the World Health Organisation, says. She was one of a six-member team which, in conjunction with Unicef, spent last week in a city whose population of four million

before the war was accustomed to efficient public services.

While up to a million residents had moved to rural areas, the water supply was estimated at 5 per cent of its normal level, and unsafe for drinking because of the lack of alum and chlorine for purification, Dr Verster said.

"The radio continually warns people to boil water from the Tigris and the canals before drinking it," she added. "But fuel is so short, they are burning wood from trees in

the parks. If a thirsty child comes across water, it simply drips."

"With schools closed, children are at home all day. They're outside - some playing 'bombers' - when there's no alarm, otherwise kept indoors. Mothers in the houses we visited say they're being driven mad. Many children, they told us, have started bedwetting. We could see the fear in their eyes when anti-aircraft fire opened up as we were visiting a health centre and children were ushered

from a room with windows into the corridors. With so much tension, many are dazed and off their food."

"Their mothers say they're losing weight, but I saw no swollen bellies or marasmus [a form of malnutrition which affects children under one year old]. Iraq never had malnutrition in recent times; on the contrary, children were over-nourished, that was our problem there."

The mandate of the team, which took in 54 tonnes of medical supplies by road, was

confined to the circumstances of mothers and children, so members visited only clinics and two maternity hospitals, both with many unoccupied wards, no power, water supplies or hot meals. Only emergency cases were being admitted to be rapidly discharged. No team member was taken to a hospital with injured civilians.

Dr Ali Khogali, the director of the WHO's regional office in Alexandria, Egypt, said he feared there would be cholera and typhoid epidemics.

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# Role of the tank questioned as Saddam loses his battlefield leviathans



M1A1 ABRAMS

□ Crew: 4, commander in turret, loader and gunner, driver at front.  
□ Combat weight: 59 tons.  
□ Max road speed: 66mph.  
□ Max range: 310 miles.  
□ Fuel capacity: 420 gallons.  
□ Engine: AGT gas turbine, can run on diesel or aircraft kerosene, developing 1,500hp.  
□ Firepower: 120mm smooth bore German Rheinmetall

gun, guided by digital computer, laser rangefinder and day/night thermal sight, range about 4,000 yards. Two machineguns.  
□ Standard equipment: air-conditioning, radiological warning, chemical attack detector, sealed compartment against nuclear, biological or chemical attack. Layered laminated armour.

IRAQ has lost nearly 300 main battle tanks in the last two days, 35 of them the Soviet-built T72 around which President Saddam Hussein had built so many dreams of conquest.

More than one thousand more have been destroyed in the aerial bombardment that preceded the allied land attack. Once the war is over, military analysts will again have to ponder whether the tank is reaching the end of its 75-year reign as the leviathan of the battlefield.

Before the war in the Gulf, the allies regarded the T72 as one of Iraq's main strengths with its thick armour and powerful 120mm gun capable of firing eight rounds a minute through an automatic loader.

It was also controlled by the well-trained and motivated Republican Guard, who were likely to put its fearsome power to the best possible use. Saddam's mistake was his decision to dig in the tank and use it defensively, rather than offensively.

By HARVEY ELLIOTT AND KEVIN EASON

Since the second world war, when the Germans briefly threatened to halt the allied advance by throwing 1,000 Tiger tanks into the Battle of the Bulge, new weapons have been developed to take on and defeat the tank.

The most effective are the missiles fired by helicopters and slow-flying A10 and Harrier jet aircraft.

In yesterday's encounter, the aircraft were queuing to attack the column of 80 Republican Guard tanks which had finally been flushed from their deep emplacements to confront the advancing allies.

The tanks and their three-man crews stood little chance, as precisely targeted missiles smashed into them, guided by laser beam, radar or infra-red seekers. The American M1A1 Abrams, which many had supposed would be involved in a direct clash, hardly had to fire a shot as its adversaries were picked off from miles away by the aircraft.

An attacking tank, moving quickly across the battlefield, can be a frightening

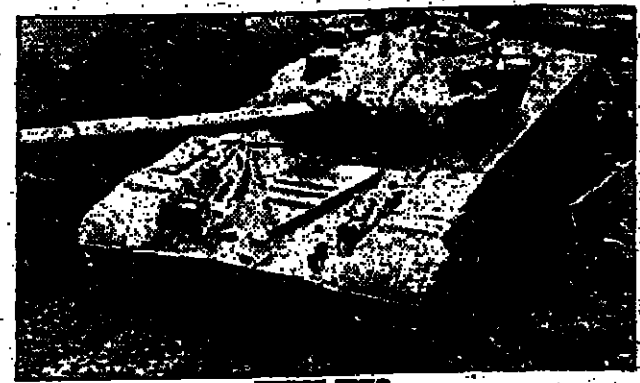
sight capable of terrifying infantry and destroying obstacles or buildings.

It is, however, extremely vulnerable when standing still, either in a defensive position or if broken down. This vulnerability has been mercilessly exposed by the coalition forces, leaving Iraq with less than half its original armoured strength with hardly a shot fired, and military strategists with a hard choice to make about the future of armoured warfare.

Some will argue that the tank still has a role and will point to the success of the Abrams and the Challenger in the land war because they were used in the right way.

But it is unlikely that future battles will be fought against an enemy with no air cover.

Had the Iraqis been able to bring air cover to bear, they may have had the same devastating effect on the allies' armoured giants as the Apache helicopters, A10s and Harriers were able to wreak on the T72s.



THE T72

□ Crew: 3, commander and gunner located in turret, driver below them protected by armour between 80mm and 200mm thick.  
□ Combat weight: 40 tons.  
□ Max road speed: 50mph.  
□ Max range: 360 miles (437.5 with extra fuel tanks).  
□ Fuel capacity: 220 gallons.  
□ Engine: V12 diesel developing 780hp at 2,000rpm.

□ Firepower: one 120mm main gun capable of firing eight rounds a minute through automatic loader. Stabilised gun operated by laser rangefinder with range of 2,200 yards, plus infra-red searchlight. Two machineguns.  
□ Standard equipment: export versions lack linking standard on Soviet tanks to protect against radiation.

## Iraqi opposition looks forward to fruits of victory

By HAZRIL TEIMOURIAN

IRAQI opposition leaders are gathering in the Saudi capital of Riyadh to discuss the setting up of a government-in-exile in the expectation that allied tank columns will be on their way to Baghdad over the next few days to end the 22-year-old rule of President Saddam Hussein and his Baath party. The leaders are guests of the Saudi state and are being assured of the kingdom's support.

The gathering consists of representatives from almost all the political parties of Iraq opposed to Saddam. They also include a number of independent personalities and retired army generals. According to informed sources, the Iraqi opposition figures have had meetings with Saudi leaders.

"The Saudis are telling the gathering to be ready to announce the formation of a government as soon as allied tanks have reached Baghdad," one source said last night. Enquiries at Riyadh's Sheraton Hotel, where the gathering seems to be in continuous session, failed to reveal the names of the guests. But they include leading figures from the two main groupings of the opposition to Saddam: the Joint Action Committee of the Iraqi Opposition (JACIO), a grouping of 17 parties that was set up in Damascus in December, and the pro-Western Council for a Democratic Iraq, formed in London earlier this month.

The talks have the support of Iran, despite the fierce mutual antagonism of the Saudis and the Iranians in recent years. In a number of meetings in Tehran between the Iranian government and the joint action committee, the latter has been assured that, despite Iran's official commitment to work for a peaceful end to the hostilities, Tehran wants the overthrow of Saddam. Iran's financial and military aid to the joint action committee is reported to have been increased.

Asked why Riyadh and Washington should even contemplate the idea of sending tanks towards Baghdad, when such a course of action would have serious political consequences, one source replied that it was calculated to minimise allied casualties in the south of Iraq. "The Saudis say that the rapid fall of Baghdad would so devastate the morale of the Iraqi army in the south that it would surrender en masse. Baghdad is only lightly defended."

The scenario appears unlikely. While it might be a genuine contingency plan to march on Baghdad, it is also possible that the Saudis and the United States are deliberately leaking the idea to further weaken the morale of the remaining supporters of Saddam in Iraq.

All the opposition parties say that they want a democratically elected government in Iraq that would allow the Kurdish minority in the north a generous measure of autonomy. The main parties are as follows:

● The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq is the umbrella organisation of a number of Shia parties based in Iran. The assembly is unhappy with Iran's official friendship with Iraq, as well as Tehran's "meddling in Iraqi affairs". Despite assurances from President Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran that his government is still seeking the overthrow of Saddam, the assembly was recently incensed when the Iraqi president's notorious brother, Barzani al-Takriti, was secretly received in Tehran.

● The Kurdistan Front — the umbrella organisation of five guerrilla parties from the Kurdish north, including the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic party.

● The Iraqi Communist party, which may still have potential among urban Iraqis.

● The New Umma (Nation) party which is based in exile in London and is the most pro-Western in the opposition. It is the organisation at the centre of the newly formed Council for a Democratic Iraq, which has attracted a number of Arab and Kurdish intellectuals living abroad.

ran, groups together Muslim fundamentalists such as the Dawa party and the Islamic Jihad group. Mr al-Saghar, whose father, mother, three brothers and other family members were executed by Saddam, predicted an Iraqi defeat in Kuwait, but cautioned that, should the allies move into central Iraq, they would face a nation armed to the teeth and bent on fighting until the finish.

He said that his group had placed 120,000 mujahedin fighters on Iran's borders with Iraq ready to move in the minute Saddam's forces are broken. Sheikh Fadlallah, mentor of the Shia Hezbollah group who lived 20 years in Iraq and was sentenced to death by Saddam, said yesterday: "I believe it will be chaos and turmoil unless the allies hold the situation and impose their own man in power," he said yesterday.



Rough justice: Arye Kogot, aged 77, displays a Hebrew sign on his balcony in Tel Aviv, saying "Dictator, the end", alongside a hanging effigy of Saddam Hussein

UNITED STATES

## American public wants war to topple dictator

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AMERICANS and their congressmen are increasingly insistent that the Gulf war must not end until President Saddam Hussein has been removed. A poll in *The Washington Post* shows that 71 per cent of Americans now believe the coalition's ultimate goal should be the toppling of the dictator, even though that would far exceed the UN mandate authorising the recovery of Kuwait.

"You just can't let him go now," Alan Dixon, a Democratic senator from Illinois, said. "My voters feel that strongly... There's a lot of pent-up wrath, and they don't want to let him stay in his shelter and then rule the country."

Joseph Biden, a senior Democrat on the Senate foreign relations committee, said Americans had quickly realised that restoring the Emir of Kuwait to power was not

worth a single American life. "The ultimate goal was to render Saddam not just incompetent but impotent to conduct the affairs of his country," he said.

The issue is important to President Bush. Were he actively to intervene to topple Saddam, it would fracture international support for the war, greatly complicate the peace process and entangle America deeply in Iraq's future. But Mr Bush has demonised Saddam from the outset, and his victory will be seen here as distinctly qualified if the Iraqi leader survives in power.

A poll published in *Newsweek* yesterday showed that only 29 per cent of respondents believed an Iraqi withdrawal left Saddam in power would constitute an allied victory. With additional evidence of Iraqi atrocities in Kuwait coming to light, that

figure is likely to shrink still further. The administration has scarcely disguised its desire to see Saddam go, and at the weekend became increasingly explicit about its wishes. James Baker, the Secretary of State, said that restoring stability to the Middle East would be "a heck of a lot easier" without Saddam.

Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser, asked if a crushing military defeat increased the chances of Saddam's internal overthrow, said: "Hopefully."

Certainly Mr Bush is enjoying extraordinary support, even from those who originally argued for continued reliance on sanctions. "I know of no dissent in the Senate whatsoever," said Chris Dodd, a Connecticut Democrat, of a body which in January only narrowly voted to authorise military action.

SOVIET UNION

## Moscow calls for an end to ground war

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev has appealed to Washington to call off the ground offensive it launched on Sunday to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait as domestic pressure appeared to be increasing for the Soviet Union to end its support for the anti-Iraq coalition.

Mr Gorbachev spoke to President Bush and "asked for reconsideration of the latest decision", Gennadi Yanayev, the Soviet vice-president, said in an interview yesterday with Moscow Radio's world service. The appeal followed sharp criticism of the US-led land assault in conservative sections of the Soviet media. Mr Yanayev said the Soviet Union could not remain indifferent to large-scale military action close to its southern border. Senior Soviet military officials have expressed fears about what they see as the danger of large numbers of American troops being based for a long period only 250 miles from Soviet frontiers.

Referring to Moscow's latest peace initiative, Mr Yanayev said: "I am greatly disappointed that nations have again missed a political chance to steer clear of heavier bloodshed. Further escalation of ground actions will whip up the death toll... I am very much afraid that weapons of mass annihilation will be used and the conflict will draw in more countries," he said. Mr Yanayev said the Soviet Union, which has backed security council resolutions against Iraq, would continue to work for a political settlement.

Pravda accused the United States of seeking world hegemony and said the complete destruction of Iraq was the real aim of the allied forces. The headline criticism reflected growing confidence among Soviet conservatives who are urging Mr Gorbachev to distance himself from the coalition.

"[The war] was waged first of all for the ambitions of the USA to take sole leadership of the world," Pravda said in a report from Cairo. "And it is wrong to improve the health of the economies of the West through the transfusion from the rich Gulf countries of many millions for military action," it added.

Mr Yanayev told the semi-official Novosti news agency

he was disappointed that the anti-Iraq alliance had rejected the peace plan worked out last week by Mr Gorbachev and Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister. "The Soviet leadership and President Gorbachev are doing their utmost to stop the conflict," he said.

Sergei Stankevich, the deputy mayor of Moscow, and a leading Soviet democrat, issued a warning yesterday that a long ground war could undermine Mr Gorbachev's position at home and tempt him to jettison his support for the coalition. "There is growing pressure in the Soviet Union to stop supporting the multinational coalition. This internal pressure is becoming unbearable for our president," he said.

IRAQI BORDER

## US plans postwar presence

FROM AP IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

US ARMY units intend to hold Iraqi territory for up to three weeks and will confine Iraqis to their homes if they refuse to leave the area.

Lieutenant-Colonel Kenneth Biser will administer the occupied areas. "I certainly don't expect to be treated like a liberator," Colonel Biser, of Thorpe, Wisconsin, said. But he added: "I really don't see our presence will be that long. Let's say we're hoping for two to three weeks."

Combat troops intend to sweep through Iraqi lines and then provide desert water supplies for allied troops. Many residents of the dusty towns in the region have left, but those who remain will be under orders to stay away from American troops. Even better, Colonel Biser said, they will be persuaded to flee north.

The army will "requisition" whatever it needs from the civilians for its war effort. The requisition will be a description and photo of the property with a notice nailed to a door or left under a nearby rock. "It's basically an IOU," Colonel Biser said.

SAUDI ARABIA

## Kuwaiti says allied forces must stay

FROM AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE IN RIYADH

THE massive allied military presence in the Gulf will be needed for several months after Kuwait is liberated, the secretary-general of the Gulf Co-operation Council said yesterday.

Abdullah Bishara said that such a force would be needed until Kuwait stands on its feet and safeguards and security arrangements are in place. In the long term, he said, a smaller American force, combined with those from other nations, including a strong regional Arab force, would help to provide a deterrent against future aggression. It would operate under the umbrella of the United Nations.

When asked how many Arab troops would be needed as part of a long-term regional security force, Mr Bishara said the numbers were less important than the mechanism and the deterrent it could provide. The enforcement of peace, which the 700,000 allied forces are now implementing, and peace-keeping were two different matters,

he said. Mr Bishara, who is Kuwait's former ambassador to the UN, told reporters during a Kuwaiti Day celebration of independence from Britain, at the Kuwait embassy in Saudi Arabia, that the rule of law must be established in the region.

This could not be achieved unless aggressive governments, such as President Saddam Hussein's, either reconciled themselves to international decency and international law, or disappeared.

Mr Bishara said it was important that long-range security arrangements were established so that American or other troops could be sent quickly from a long distance, if necessary, he said.

Since the Gulf states were unable to defend themselves, a strong indigenous force must be established to improve regional defences, he said. The security arrangement should be started by the Gulf council, with the co-operation of Syria, Egypt, some Islamic and other friendly states, under the UN.

LEBANON

## Dissident groups predict civil war

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

IRAQI opposition figures and extremist Muslim groups in Beirut believe that a civil war may break out in Iraq should President Saddam Hussein be toppled. They predicted that he would either commit suicide or flee to Jordan if the allied forces reached Baghdad.

Abu Maitham al-Saghar, of the Higher Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said he had received fresh information from Iraq that morale in Saddam's forces was at its lowest ebb. He said that Izzat Ibrahim, an Iraqi deputy prime minister, had approached President Rafsanjani of Iran, shortly before the ground war started, asking him to mediate on an offer to the Iraqi Muslim opposition, to join Saddam's government. "He offered us one-third of the parliament and cabinet seats, but we refused his offer," Mr al-Saghar said.

The council, based in Tehran, groups together Muslim fundamentalists such as the Dawa party and the Islamic Jihad group. Mr al-Saghar, whose father, mother, three brothers and other family members were executed by Saddam, predicted an Iraqi defeat in Kuwait, but cautioned that, should the allies move into central Iraq, they would face a nation armed to the teeth and bent on fighting until the finish.

He said that his group had placed 120,000 mujahedin fighters on Iran's borders with Iraq ready to move in the minute Saddam's forces are broken. Sheikh Fadlallah, mentor of the Shia Hezbollah group who lived 20 years in Iraq and was sentenced to death by Saddam, said yesterday: "I believe it will be chaos and turmoil unless the allies hold the situation and impose their own man in power," he said yesterday.

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ISRAEL

## Conflict splits Palestinians

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

WITH President Saddam Hussein facing almost certain humiliation at the hands of the allies, divisions are emerging among Palestinians in the occupied territories over whether they should develop a local leadership to replace the increasingly discredited Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Reports suggest that Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, which funded the PLO, are considering an alternative that could formulate "nationalist" policies and negotiate a post-war settlement with Israel. Gulf leaders contemptuously refer to Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, as a "clown" because of his support for Saddam. Israel hopes that its informal wartime relationship with Syria and Saudi Arabia will form a basis for future regional security arrangements. But there are reports from Tunis that the PLO has not yet grasped what a disaster its policy has been.

PLO officials say they still expect the Arab coalition of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Morocco to give the organis-

ation a "central role" in postwar negotiations.

Palestinians in the occupied territories, who have fervently supported Saddam throughout the conflict, display a mixture of bewilderment and

disbelief. "I listen to what Baghdad radio says, not allied claims of success," one shopkeeper said yesterday. What about pictures of Iraqi troops surrendering? "They must be fabrications," he said.

Joseph Biden, a senior Democrat on the Senate foreign relations committee, said Americans had quickly realised that restoring the Emir of Kuwait to power was not

proved it has the will and the might to fight and win a war. "The Iraqis were looking at us like winners," said Robert Rodriguez, a trainee policeman in New York. "This shows we can't be tough." A shopper, aged 40, in Manhattan, said: "If we prove again that we are the most powerful, it will settle everyone down."

For peace protesters, it was a bad weekend. Police turned out in strength prepared for a big march outside the UN in New York on Sunday. Four bespectacled activists turned up. A

NEWS of success in the ground war has sent America's hardcore peace activists into retreat and prompted citizens from coast to coast to proclaim that, after two decades, the country is finally purging the "Vietnam syndrome".

While families of servicemen waited anxiously, a sense of pride sometimes approaching glee infused the talk on the streets and on the air waves all day on Sunday and early yesterday. Again and again, people voiced the same view: after all the sneering and humiliation of recent years, America has

disseminating voice was also heard from leading churchmen. Cardinal John O'Connor of New York told his congregation that he had dropped to his knees and wept when he learnt that the ground war had begun. "I am not sure that I can preach without weeping," he said.

Spot opinion polls yesterday showed that well over 80 per cent of the population supported President Bush's decision to launch the ground war, and 75 per cent believed they should keep fighting until President Saddam Hussein is removed. Commentators and histo-

rians are pointing out that Iraq is reaping all the anger pent up through years of humiliation since the débacle and retreat from Vietnam in the early 1970s. USA Today, the popular national newspaper, said the ground war "held the promise of completion, a chance to get past the anguish of Vietnam, and this time to do it right".

Another commentator said the Gulf war had, for public opinion, turned into a type of "Vietnam - the sequel" in which America's men and weapons acquit themselves as they were supposed to.



O'Connor wept when he learnt of the ground war

alex co 1520



# King warns MPs against euphoria and wins support

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Commons yesterday gave cross-party support to the opening of the land war in the Gulf as Tom King, the defence secretary, said that the fighting was entering a critical phase with allied troops encountering the best of the Iraqi forces.

The news so far had been good but the days ahead might be more difficult, Mr King said, as ministers sought to dispel some of the euphoria

surrounding the initial allied successes. The defence secretary's statement came after a meeting of the war cabinet at which Sir David Craig, Chief of Defence Staff, warned ministers not to be carried away by early successes on the ground. Some significant Iraqi forces had yet to be engaged.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, took this message to the all-party Commons foreign affairs committee, where he cautioned MPs against expecting a quick victory in the land war. Mr Hurd denied that the allied war aims had been extended to imposing a particular government on Iraq, but admitted that a settlement would be easier if President Saddam Hussein were removed from power.

In the Commons, Martin O'Neill, Labour's defence spokesman, endorsed Mr King's verdict that the coalition had had to launch the ground offensive after Iraq's rejection of the final deadline and Saddam's orders for the "wholesale destruction" of Kuwait while Tariq Aziz, his foreign minister, was still purporting to negotiate in Moscow. Mr O'Neill said that responsibility for the intensification of the conflict lay with the Iraqi leader.

He asked: "Who could accept the strength of a foreign minister's assurance that he could commit his troops to withdraw from a country while his president and commander-in-chief was giving orders to the same troops in the same country to put that land to the torch and its people to the sword?"

Mr King gave few details about the progress of the land offensive. One of the allies' key advantages was the lack of Iraqi intelligence about their dispositions and plans. That had to be preserved. However, Mr King did not endorse a call from a Tory backbencher for "armchair generals" on tele-

vision and radio to desist from their speculation about tactics and strategy.

Allied forces had rapidly penetrated the Iraqi fortifications along the Saudi-Kuwaiti border and along much of the Saudi-Iraqi border, Mr King said. To the east of that front, US, Saudi, Egyptian, Kuwaiti and other Gulf state forces had advanced "well into Kuwait". To the west, American, British, Saudi and French forces had pushed into Iraq and begun encircling Iraqi units, presumably the Republican Guard. The British 1st Armoured Division was taking part in this attack. There had been no British casualties so far in the land assault and allied casualties had been "very light".

Mr King confirmed that the allies had taken 20,000 prisoners and that many Iraqi units on the front line had surrendered almost immediately.

Tory and Labour MPs joined their leaders in arguing that any doubts about the rightness of the land war had been settled by the acts of "medieval barbarity" against Kuwaiti people and property ordered by Saddam.

David Winnick, the Labour MP for Walsall North, said the whole House and the country owed a tremendous debt of gratitude to all the allied forces who were fighting a "monstrous tyranny" that was committing foul crimes.

Reservations about the land offensive were largely restricted to attempts to secure assurances from Mr King that any allied incursions into Iraqi territory would be limited to temporary moves intended to cut off the Iraqi army in Kuwait.

One of the few backbench critics was Dennis Canavan, the Labour MP for Falkirk West. He claimed the United States, not the UN, was calling the shots.



A Kuwaiti child with a message outside the London embassy yesterday as women held a silent vigil

## Kuwaiti exiles mark freedom day with worry and optimism

By RAY CLANCY

WITH mixed emotions of apprehension, joy and worry Kuwaitis exiled in Britain yesterday marked their national day with a sombre vigil as they prayed for their fellow countrymen fighting for liberation.

Normally the night sky around Kuwait City would have been lit up with the

rainbow colours of fireworks, public buildings adorned with strings of lights and the Kuwaiti people singing and celebrating the 30th anniversary of their independence from Britain. Instead the streets were empty as the sounds of heavy gunfire echoed from the suburbs where allied troops had already begun freeing the city, according to a report that reached the Free Kuwait Campaign headquarters in London.

"There are heavy bombardments from the air, from artillery rockets and from guns. People are in their houses. No Kuwaiti is going out onto the streets which are very quiet. Iraqi soldiers are hiding in houses. We do not know how they are going to resist," the message said.

A group from the Association for Free Kuwait had a meeting with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and expressed their gratitude for all that Britain had done to help Kuwait. "We told Mr Hurd of our deep appreciation for what the British people are doing, especially the troops. This holiday has been a sombre occasion. We are very worried because a lot of the

details of the atrocities are now going to come out but we are also cautiously optimistic that this big nightmare will soon be over," a spokeswoman said.

More than 200 women and children gathered outside the Kuwaiti Embassy in London for a vigil to mark the day. They stood in silence, their heads bowed, and remembered those who have died in their country and those who have suffered atrocities including torture at the hands of the Iraqi, Ghazi al-Rayes, the ambassador, stood on the steps of the embassy and thanked the British government and troops. "We are not able to rejoice today but I hope to see you all soon in liberated Kuwait," he said.

Schoolchildren sang a traditional song, waved Kuwaiti flags and held banners with the words: "Thank you Britain, our prayers are with the troops." Many of those who took part in the vigil said they were fearful for their relatives. "I have no idea if my family is alive or dead. We shall know the truth very soon," one woman said.

"Saddam Hussein has forgotten that our country is a family, one big family that will always remain linked through thought and heart. We are not celebrating for we still do not know what is ahead in coming days, but our hearts are filled with hope and promise. He (Saddam) can destroy our homes and our property but can never crush our spirit," Sawwan Ahmed, a computer operator who fled across the desert in the early days of the occupation, said.

The British Red Cross has begun training 120 Kuwaiti women in basic first-aid skills to prepare them for a return to their country. As well as nursing, welfare and ambulance training the women are also being advised on the sort of circumstances they might have to face in a war-ravaged land and for the sort of wartime injuries they may come across.

A member of Kuwait's royal family ordered 1,000 T-shirts emblazoned with the message "Kuwait is Free" from a London shop yesterday and insisted they be ready by midday. "They think that Kuwait is going to be free today," a spokesman at Charlotte's Embroidery said about the £5,000 order.

## Village mourns a dead soldier

By ALICE THOMSON

A VILLAGE in south Wales was last night mourning a British soldier who was killed two days before the land war started. David Denbury, aged 26, from Gwent, a corporal with the Royal Engineers, was believed to have been with a unit operating behind enemy lines in the run-up to the offensive. His death in action was the first of a British soldier during the Gulf war.

The defence ministry refused to comment on whether the soldier was attached to the Special Air Service Regiment. Cpl Denbury's parents Neil and Maureen, from Ponhir, near Newport, were yesterday comforting his fiancée Ceri Ward. A friend of the family said: "His family are absolutely devastated. They were all terribly close so it's very sad for them. His mother and father are still trying to carry on working which is probably the best thing they could do."

She said that Cpl Denbury had joined the army from school initially as a para-trooper. His sister Julie Denbury said: "The MoD didn't give us any details of how he died, they would only say that they had his body in Riyadh."

"He boxed for the army, he played rugby and football for the Army - now he has died for the Army. We all supported the war because he did and we still do. He was a typical dashing young soldier - blue-eyed, blonde-haired and very handsome."

A second soldier, Paul Patrick Keegan, aged 20, a Royal Artillery gunner, was also killed in the run-up to the ground war. Gnr Keegan was attached to 32 Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery which is involved in bombarding Iraqi troops. He died last Thursday while working with heavy artillery tanks. The army said that the accident involved an M109 self-propelled gun.

Gnr Keegan, from Liverpool, joined the army when he was 16 and had served in Germany and Northern Ireland. His mother Helena said: "He was a brilliant person who was very proud of. We always looked forward to his letters. His humour always shone through."

Paul's uncle David Fisher said: "The army was his life. He said he had been trained to do a job and now he was going to do it. But the worst thing is that it was an accident."

Lance Corporal Robert Robbins, aged 24, a driver with the Royal Corps of Transport, has also died while in the Gulf, the defence ministry said. He died from a brain tumour while supplying troops near the front line earlier this month.

## Women share fears and news

By PETER VICTOR

EVERY time Rosemary Angus sits down to watch the television for news of her son, who is with the 7th Armoured Brigade, it seems that the telephone rings.

Mrs Angus co-ordinates the Kent support group for the families of servicemen from her home in Maidstone, Kent. The group holds meetings so that wives and girlfriends can pool information and talk. It also arranges for parcels to be sent to loved ones in the war zone.

Mrs Angus, who has experience in youth and community work and in administration, said: "The nicest thing about the meetings we have is that while people are anxious and concerned, occasionally you hear somebody laugh. They are meeting and sharing things and that helps to relieve anxiety."

She is less anxious herself now that the land battle has begun and the news blackout has been partly lifted. "You know there are going to be casualties, you know there are going to be deaths, it can't be avoided. When the blackout was on, though, we were getting news but it was just conjecture and that's worse than hard facts."

"That's especially true when you hear the news coming from the Iraqis. It's propaganda, but not everybody knows enough about the situation to realise that."

Elsewhere, the mood also seemed to be one of relief that the land battle had started and that allied casualties, up to yesterday, had been so light. A group based in Tidworth, Wiltshire, said there had been no significant increase in the number of calls from worried relatives. In Barnstaple,

Debbie Evans, the co-ordinator of a group covering the north Devon area, said: "We've sent out 1,500 parcels in the last three weeks. The feeling here among many volunteers is 'Let's get it over very quickly and get our boys home'."

She added, however, that many of those with relatives in the Gulf region were very anxious. "They are either sitting on the edges of their seats watching every single news bulletin or they just can't bear to watch."

Les Keating, of the support group in Aldershot, said the number of telephone calls from worried families had dropped since the start of the ground offensive. "At the moment there's a lot of relief because the thing has actually started. They know things are going well and there hasn't been a lot of casualties."

Sue Thomas, the founder of the Gulf support groups, of which there are now 60 branches, said yesterday that the launch of the land war had been a source of mixed emotions. "We are relieved that it has started and there is no more waiting and not knowing, but now that it has started we are terrified."

"I've been inundated with phone calls. The phone hasn't stopped ringing. My boss has been very good. I broke down in work today because I heard the news on the radio and my son's in the 7th Armoured Brigade."

"It has been very difficult for a lot of the mums. I haven't seen Richard for five months, a lot of the mums haven't seen their sons for longer than that. It is hard, but a lot of the time it is like having one big family."



Family visit: the Princess of Wales meeting the wives and children of soldiers of the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards and the regimental band of the Scots Guard who are in the Gulf, during a visit to Wellington Barracks yesterday. The Princess has written a letter of support in the defence ministry magazine *Soldier to Soldier* in the Gulf. In the letter, the Princess said that a message written from the safety of her home in London could all too easily sound remote or condescending. "But I do want you all to know just how much you are in our thoughts and prayers," she wrote.

## Military hospitals clear beds for injured

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH military hospitals were told yesterday to cancel all routine operations and stand by for the first casualties from the ground battle. The three military hospitals expected to take the first plane loads of seriously wounded soldiers were clearing beds and planning to discharge patients to "post-operative" hospitals.

Although British casualties have been light so far, contingency plans for significant numbers yesterday swung into action. Extra staff were called in, including those on leave, volunteers and personnel working in support centres. The Princess Alexandra

Hospital, Wroughton, Wiltshire, the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich, south London and the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, Gosport, Hampshire, have already admitted hundreds of soldiers injured in accidents and training exercises. Most have had fractured limbs and many have already been discharged. Since January 15 flights have been leaving RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, every Saturday, picking up casualties in Saudi Arabia and Cyprus.

The Princess Alexandra Hospital received 13 more non-combat injuries early yesterday morning from a flight carrying 79 injured service-

men and women. The hospital has treated about 200 soldiers since hostilities began. It expects an increase in non-combat injuries in the next two days as Gulf field hospitals are evacuated to make room for land war casualties. About 180 servicemen are still being treated in the Gulf.

War casualties who cannot withstand the 12-hour journey back to the United Kingdom will be treated for up to four days in the five field hospitals in the Gulf, but those with less serious injuries may be flown back immediately after essential surgery and dressing. American non-combat casualties have also been brought

back to hospitals in this country to clear beds in the Gulf. The US Third Air Force said an estimated 150 soldiers had been treated at the three American contingency hospitals at RAF Bicester, Rixington and Nocton Hall, near Lincoln, which can take up to 2,750 wounded servicemen.

The NHS has spent £9.5 million preparing to treat Gulf war casualties. William Waldegrave, the health secretary, said the government would provide extra cash so that hospitals could catch up with routine operations cancelled because of the war.

## Students call for end to hostilities

By PETER VICTOR

REPRESENTATIVES of students opposed to the Gulf war from 30 universities, polytechnics and colleges will today lobby parliament to call for an immediate ceasefire.

The lobby, organised by national Student Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the National Union of Students, will demand an end to hostilities under the auspices of the United Nations, a Middle East peace conference, and "an end to the mistreatment of Arab students in Britain".

Marjorie Thompson, chairman of CND, and Stephen Twigg, the student union president, will be among the speakers. Ms Thompson yesterday compared student protests over the Gulf war with those opposing the war in Vietnam.

"Twenty years ago, students were in the forefront of the movement against the Vietnam war," she said. "I am heartened to see Student CND and the NUS working together today, proving that the student movement is as clear headed now as then about the destruction and waste of war."

The Committee to Stop War in the Gulf issued a statement yesterday claiming that the Arab world will regard the West as hypocrites. "Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza can be tolerated for 23 years... but Iraq's six-month occupation of Kuwait leads to a horrific war," it said. The committee is planning a national demonstration on Saturday starting at noon at the Embankment, central London.

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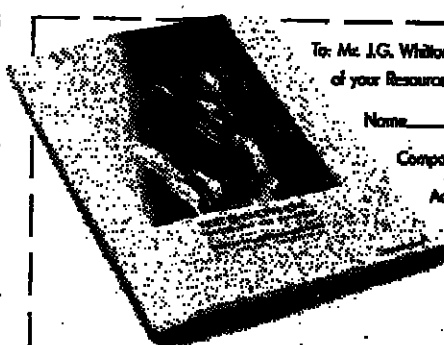
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# Ministers take first steps towards elite group of universities

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE first steps have been taken towards the establishment of an elite group of universities in an allocation of government funding to be announced today. Institutions will be offered starkly contrasting futures.

## MPs to get business warning

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MPs SERVING on select committees will be required to take greater care to see that their business interests do not conflict with their committee work if a report to be published next month is accepted.

The Commons committee on members' interests is expected to finalise the report today after unease that the outside interests of some chairmen and members might influence their work of scrutinising government departments.

The enquiry into interests of select committee members comes after the Commons report last August recommending Michael Mates, chairman of the defence committee, for failing to declare his consultancy with Link Miles Ltd, a supplier of flight simulators, during an investigation into low-flying RAF training sorties.

The report from the members' interests committee will call for tighter controls on the declaration and registration of links with outside companies, consultancies and trade unions by all select committee members, not just the chairmen. It will also ask members to be more aware of the risk of appearing to the public to be biased or influenced in their enquiries by their business connections.

But as drafted by the chairman, Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, the report will resist demands that chairmen should divest themselves of outside interests in the same way as ministers. The committee believes that such a requirement would be draconian and unfair unless chairmen receive extra payments for their committee work. It also rejected the idea of singling out chairmen for special restrictions.

London colleges need special help to cushion them from the effects of cuts in real terms, while others are rewarded with cash increases of more than 19 per cent. Reading, Warwick, Sheffield, Bristol and York will gain most from the Universities Funding Council's plans for 1991-2.

Ministers may be disappointed by the scale of the expansion planned by the council. The universities had asked for 335,000 students, a total close to the government's published target, but the council is to fund only 303,700.

The result will be 7 per cent more places funded next year, although the council expects universities to take in extra students without government grant as part of a 1.5 per cent increase in efficiency. Because almost all universities take such extra students, the number of this year's university students is already expected to have reached 320,000.

A letter to vice-chancellors from Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, the funding council's chief executive, emphasised that the council supported the priority given by ministers to expanding student numbers. The increase falls far short of the 17 per cent growth sanctioned in polytechnics and colleges of higher education, however.

Although the number of students at the top-rated universities will increase by twice the national average, some would have had cuts in funded places without the benefit of a safety net. Of those at the top, Bristol still has to satisfy the council that it has "diagnosed and remedied the management weaknesses that brought about an unforeseen



Sir Peter: emphasis on student expansion

deficit of \$4.4 million in 1989-90" before its allocation is confirmed.

Several of the universities that suffered the most severe cuts in the Eighties are among those requiring assistance for 1991-2. Aston, City, Loughborough and Salford universities, and the London and Manchester business schools receive the lowest allocations, while the London School of Economics and Goldsmiths', King's, Queen Mary and Westfield, and Royal Holloway and Bedford New colleges of London university also receive extra assistance.

Manchester is among the other universities given a low increase in student numbers. Oxford and Cambridge, which benefit from high research ratings, both come out of the exercise well.

The planning exercise has been dogged by controversy, which reached a peak when all the universities' bids for places were rejected last October. Although the decision was never formally reversed, the council took account of "universities' aspirations" and of the lowest prices offered per student under the abandoned system of bidding for funds.

The criteria used in making the final allocations included assessments of teaching quality, innovative courses, research ratings and the demand from employers for students. Provisional allocations for the next three years will be announced next month.

A separate allocation of capital funds includes £70 million to be spent over three years on the upgrading of animal houses. The facilities need building work and new equipment to bring them up to the requirements of a code of practice enshrined in legislation four years ago.

Funding for teaching has been increased by an average of 4.5 per cent at a time when the government's estimate of inflation stands at 6 per cent. Clinical medicine, dentistry and veterinary science have all been given higher funding increases.

The allocations of 51,000 postgraduate places was based on the numbers at each university in 1989-90. Previous allocations of undergraduates were also used as a guide, with the number of extra students recruited. Projected numbers for medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and initial teacher training were all funded in full, as were almost all of the projected numbers in the engineering faculties.



Hattersley: wants to end difference with ministers

# Opposition calls for talks on anti-terror act

By OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

## TERRORISM

THE Labour party leadership will today urge all-party talks on measures to defeat the Provisional IRA, including replacement of the contentious Prevention of Terrorism Act with what it calls more workable provisions.

At a time of increased IRA activity in Britain, Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, is expected to call for a united effort to remove a key source of difference between the two front benches over the methods of defeating terrorism.

The government is shortly to seek its annual renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Labour will oppose the move as it has done since 1983. It has argued consistently for several years that the act is counter-productive because of the effect it has on American and Irish opinion.

Labour says that the act's detention powers enabling people to be held for up to seven days without charge, three days longer than under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, alienates law-abiding citizens and has been criticised by the European court; that its exclusion powers for returning people to Northern Ireland are offensive to the province because they mean that potential terrorists

can walk the streets of Belfast but not those of the rest of the United Kingdom; and that its new provisions introduced with Labour support to restrain the financing of IRA terrorism were criticised last week as a sham by Lord Colville's annual review of the act.

In pressing for key changes to the anti-terrorism legislation, the Labour leadership is clearly hoping to avoid the risk that its annual vote against the Prevention of Terrorism Act could be misunderstood and misrepresented by opponents seeking to make political propaganda.

It wants an agreement that would remove the once-a-year source of friction between the two front benches. Mr Hattersley will argue that it would be wrong to allow the disagreement on the act to dash hopes of an inter-party agreement.

Mr Hattersley's offer today in a Birmingham speech has been authorised by Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader. It comes after expressions of gratitude from ministers at Labour's robust response after the Downing Street and Victoria station attacks. Mr Kinnock and Mr Hattersley co-operated with the government in not pressing for a Commons statement after the Victoria bombing in order to deny parliamentary publicity to the perpetrators.

Mr Hattersley will set no conditions for the talks, other than that the government should take time to listen to his proposals.

Labour leaders point out that Lord Colville, apart from voicing reservations about the financial controls in the act, has also opposed the exclusion orders and that the Bar Council has opposed the detention powers, calling for them to be brought into line with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

Mr Hattersley will argue that the best way to defeat terrorism is to present a fully united front to it, and that the only losers from talks between Labour and the government would be the IRA. The heavy criticism of the act's three most disputed provisions must raise questions about its effectiveness.

## Hoaxers face long sentence

## Protection planned for the vulnerable

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIGNS of a tougher government stance against bomb hoaxers emerged in the Commons last night as John Patten, Home Office minister of state, pledged a review of the law (Peter Mulligan writes).

He told MPs that he would review the penalties available for "these demented people" who, he said, caused chaos to the emergency services and to the travelling public.

He said that the courts were stamping down hard on hoaxers, but he added: "Perhaps we should arm the courts with something a bit tougher for the future to deal with these people."

Speaking during report stage of the Criminal Justice bill, Mr Patten said: "This is a disgraceful habit in the country at large". The present maximum penalty in a magistrates' court for bomb hoaxers is three months' jail, a sentence handed out last week to a man who claimed that a bomb had been planted at a station in south east London.

THE government is backing a bill designed to give new legal safeguards to defendants suffering from mental handicap or illness, the Law Society said yesterday.

Under present arrangements, people who are unfit to plead because of insanity must be detained indefinitely in hospital, without trial and without any test of whether they committed the crime with which they are charged. The law is intended to protect such people from the ordeal of a trial.

According to the society, the blanket application of the Criminal Procedure (Insanity) Act, 1964, has led to people being detained in psychiatric hospitals unnecessarily and to gross miscarriages of justice. Mentally disordered individuals have been punished for crimes they did not commit.

The society, the professional body for solicitors, gave details of a private member's bill sponsored by John Greenway, Conservative MP for Ryedale, which is expected to get a second reading in the Commons on Friday with all-party support. The bill, which amends the 1964 act, requires courts to carry out a trial of facts to determine the guilt of an accused person who is unfit to plead. Once guilt has been established, the courts will be able to choose from a range of sentences from detention to an absolute discharge.

# Tax incentives at heart of Labour policy to boost manufacturing

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TAX incentives intended to encourage investment in manufacturing and technology were proposed yesterday by the Labour party as part of an industrial policy to help Britain to climb out of the recession.

Plans for a corporate tax allowance for investment in technology, incentives for individuals to invest long term in growing manufacturing companies in a scheme designed to generate £1 billion of new investment in the first five years of a Labour government, and an investment scheme to encourage companies to invest in science and technology parks directed towards manufacturing were set out in a policy document. The document was drawn up after consultations between Labour and industrial leaders.

John Smith, the shadow chancellor, told a press conference in London to launch the document, *Modern Manufacturing Strength*, that the costs of the schemes could be met if necessary by his plans to close the loopholes that allowed companies and individuals to save a £1 billion a year through investment in tax-free investment trusts.

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, praised the document as containing policies to build a top-class economy and Gordon Brown, shadow trade and industry secretary, said that they would help Labour to

shape a new industrial revolution for Britain.

They left behind the "old ideologies of the command economy and crude free market forces" and built a new partnership for prosperity between government and everyone in industry.

The document said that Labour's objectives were to modernise the manufacturing base, develop long-term policies so that companies could take decisions and plan for the future with confidence and to develop an effective partnership between industry and government. The proposals disclosed a strong shift in thinking away from State-style interventionism. "The partnership we propose will be enabling not dirigiste, decentralist not bureaucratic. Powers will be taken from Whitehall and services removed to the regions where they should be," the document said.

The document committed Labour to establishing technology trusts bringing together universities, industrialists, financiers, and local and national government to promote the development and diffusion of technologies through helping the commercial exploitation of ideas developed by universities and polytechnics and ensuring that even the smallest firms have access to the best of the world technologies. There will be a small business innovations programme for converting innovative skills into British-made products.

Legislation on takeovers was promised requiring those bidding for companies to disclose their intention to bid at an earlier stage and to place the case of proof on the bidder to show that the merger

is in the public interest. Bids will be measured against their impact on criteria such as regional location, employment, the environment and research and development. Companies will be required to indicate in their accounts their spending on research and development and on training.

The document built on Labour's present proposals for a new national training body setting targets for the up-



Smith: costs can be met by closing loopholes

grading of skills, to pledge the replacement of the government's youth training scheme with an entitlement to learn for all 16 to 19-year-olds and plans to allow small firms to combine to provide together the training they are unable to give on their own.

To help the regions there will be a network of regional development agencies in England and the strengthening of the Scottish and Welsh agencies. The new agencies will be able to take quick decisions while acting strategically to develop premises and sites for industry, support growing firms and assist with environmental improvements.

Mr Smith said that the most worrying aspect of the recession was the catastrophic effect on investment. The document outlined various plans for:

An investment expansion scheme. Labour will offer an additional corporate tax allowance, at a rate yet to be decided, for investment in new technology. There will be an enhanced first-year allowance to be introduced in Labour's first budget for investment in certain plant and machinery and innovation and design. The allowances will cover not just research but also product development. Mr Smith pointed out that if the incentives proved successful and the firms expanded, the Treasury would benefit later from enhanced corporation tax.

A growing-business scheme. That would encourage individuals to invest in firms that are growing. There will be fiscal incentives for individuals to invest long term in new equity investment, setting their investment against tax. Labour will pay for it by cancelling the business expansion scheme that is geared almost wholly to property. There will be no additional public spending.

Corporate tax incentives for larger companies to invest in science and technology parks geared towards manufacturing and to work with universities, polytechnics, local authorities and other bodies in doing so. The larger firms will be encouraged to share their capital and expertise with small and new firms.

Tax incentives for research and development. On top of the present allowances for the assets used in scientific research, companies will get 25 per cent tax credits for research investment that they can show to be genuinely additional to their present outlay.

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## ADVERTISEMENT

# BASQUE TECHNOLOGY PARK

## Northern Spain's Foremost Technology Complex

Located in the heart of the Basque Country, and within easy access of major communications arteries, lies a 1,300,000 square metre technology complex surrounded by five technology centres, two universities and numerous companies engaged in innovative activities.

The 20,000 million pesetas being invested in this 130 hectare project over a period of fifteen years has enabled the Basque Country to create the most important complex of its kind in Northern Spain, and the one closest geographically to the European network of technology parks.

The project's major promoters are the SPRI - the Basque Government's Regional Development Agency - the Provincial Council of Bizkaia, through its Department of Promotion and Economic Development, and the Town Council of Zamudio, the Bizkaia municipality where the Park is located.

Prospective occupants of facilities in the Park must be high-tech companies with a strong commitment to innovation. Land and facilities are offered on lease with a twelve-year purchase option. Companies located in the Technology Park may apply for different types of aid and subsidies available from the Basque Government, and may also be eligible for the tax incentives offered by the Provincial Tax Authority.

Management of the Park has been entrusted to Parque Tecnológico Elkartea, a publicly-owned company created in September 1985 by the SPRI, which holds a 75% interest, the Bizkaia Provincial Council with a 24.96% interest, and the Zamudio Town Council with 0.04%. The company's share capital now stands at 3,400 million pesetas.

### Economic Environment

Thanks to the vast improvements being made in infrastructures, the consolidation of the Basque Autonomous Community's institutional structure, the concern and commitment of the public sector to promote economic development, and a private sector that has traditionally been in the vanguard of Spanish commerce and industry, the Basque Country is currently enjoying a new phase of its long economic history.

Today, in an area measuring 7,621 km<sup>2</sup>, two million people live and work, inheritors of the ancient Basque legacy and proud that their forefathers made of the Basque Country one of the major industrial areas of Europe.

The modern Basque economy is based on an industrial sector that represents over 51% of the Gross Domestic Product, an up-and-coming services sector which currently accounts for 46%, and a small primary sector.

In addition to the industrial, financial and communications structure behind the Basque Technology Park, the complex also derives support from the numerous Technology Centres and Universities in the area.

Public Authorities in the Basque Country have joined forces with an ever-increasing number of companies to meet the challenge for constant innovation. Basque companies now devote nearly 20,000 million pesetas a year to R&D activities, in which 1,500 highly qualified technicians, engineers and scientists are engaged.

Every day, over 500 scientists carry out research in the five technology centres operating in the Basque Country under the auspices of the Autonomous Government. Basque companies and technical personnel are also hard at work on

several major European technology projects.

The Basque Country is getting ready to meet one of the greatest challenges it has faced in recent times. During the next few years, the face of the land itself will be altered as major public works projects get under way. Some 400,000 million pesetas have been committed to improving and modernising the region's infrastructures, including railways, airports, motorways, seaports and the Greater Bilbao Area underground system.

In addition to this, a new financial sector is also taking shape in the Basque Country. Traditionally the home of banking in Spain, the Basque Country contributed more than any other region to financing the nation's industrialisation and economic development. Now, nearly a century and a half later, the region is experiencing a reawakening of its banking tradition. Harbingers of the new era in Basque finance have included the creation of Spain's largest bank through the merger of the Banco de Bilbao and the Banco de Vizcaya, the concentration of Basque savings banks, the burgeoning of the Bilbao Stock Exchange and the appearance of new financial instruments.

Today, over 80,000 students are enrolled in the Basque Country's two universities, while another 80,000 are being trained in the field of microelectronics. Every year, the region's Technical Schools produce thousands of graduates specialised in industrial automation, robots, information technology and computers.

The tertiary sector, with its promise of steady growth over the medium and long-term has developed spectacularly during recent years. One important initiative designed to promote long-range thinking regarding the future of Basque society is a project called *Perspectives 2005*.

The Basque Country is also enjoying an unprecedented revival of the arts, and can boast of major figures in nearly every field. The Basques, who have always been known for their love of music and strong choral tradition, today are also producing major novelists, painters, composers and sculptors whose names are known internationally.

These, then, are some of the factors that combine with the superb natural beauty of the Basque hills and coastline to make this region an attractive place in which to live and invest.

### Technology Park

This is the setting of the Basque Technology Park. Located in the township of Zamudio, in the province of Bizkaia, the Park is just 12 kilometres from Bilbao, 3 from the International Airport of Sondika, 6 km from the nearest international motorway, and 15 km from Spain's leading seaport. The Basque Technology Park is designed to provide a ready-made infrastructure for companies committed to channelling a large part of their resources into research and development.

The complex is being constructed in phases, corresponding to the several basic zones or sectors into which the Park has been divided. Each sector will be comprised of companies of all sizes, offices, research facilities and central services.

Sector One has a total surface area of 139,000 square metres, with 32,200 square metres of building space. The second sector is somewhat larger, with a surface area of nearly 190,000 square metres and 51,000 square metres of building space.

There is a third large area reserved for future applications. Buildings occupy only a quarter of the surface area,

while the rest has been landscaped for roads, parks, services, recreation areas and sports facilities.

Sector One has eight large buildings, three of which belong to the Technology Park and are leased to occupants. The other five belong to large and medium-sized companies specialised in high-tech activities.

There are five buildings in Sector Two, which is the area devoted to research companies and centres. It is here that public organisations working in the field of innovation are located.

### Buildings and Architecture

The buildings in the Park are remarkable for their striking, yet functional, architecture, combining traditional construction materials and techniques with new materials, bold overhangs, steel panels, modern surface treatments and versatile spatial arrangements through the use of modules.

One of the buildings owned by the park itself is the *Estrella*, which has a total of 4,500 square metres of floor space. This building is available to small companies working in leading-edge activities. The *Estrella* is a modern building with a futuristic look and a floorplan that is both functional and versatile. Designed to house six companies, the building offers visitors and occupants an impressive glimpse of the twenty-first century from the moment they walk into the ground-floor reception area.

Another building owned by the Park is the *Nido*, a 2,500 square metre structure designed to help newly created high-tech companies get off the ground. This building is comprised of a series of modules - six to a floor - arranged in such a way that as many as 20 different companies of varying sizes can be accommodated here.

The *Barco* building, with 6,900 square metres of floor space, houses the central offices and services of the Basque Technology Park. The building has space available for medium-sized companies, and also serves as the Park's directory, including information regarding the location of companies, their products and the contacts needed in their activity. The *Barco* also has an auditorium, press room, and other facilities of a general nature.

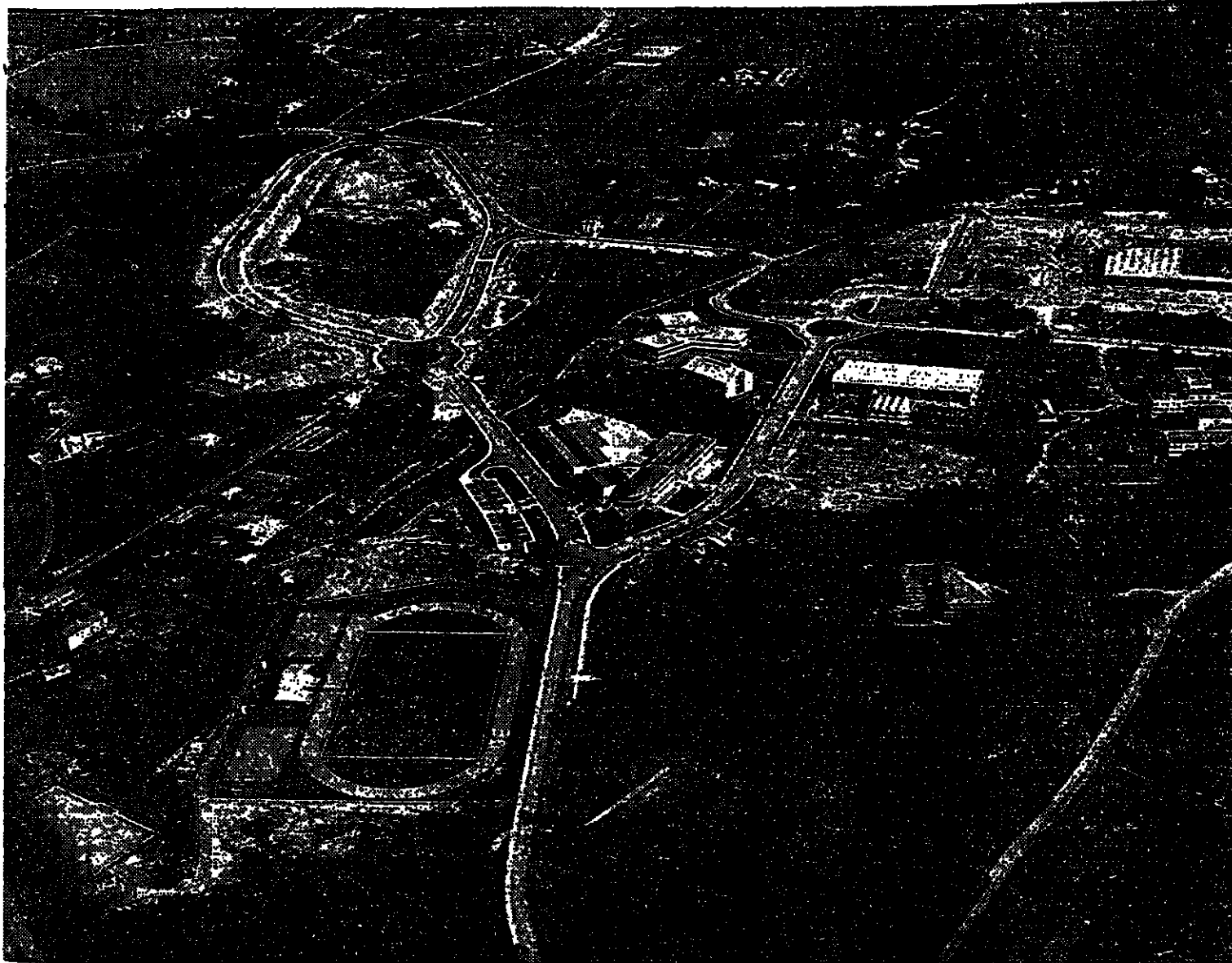
The architectural infrastructure of the Technology Park includes several other buildings, some of which are privately-owned. One of the most interesting is the one belonging to the Spanish national telephone company's Teleport, where all the telecommunications networks in the Basque Country are coordinated. This service involves 2 megabit transmissions via international satellites.

### Companies

The companies located in the Basque Technology Park represent a wide range of sectors, including electronics, computer technology, CAD/CAM, quality management, telecommunications and robots.

Priority is given to companies, departments and public or private institutions engaged in research and development activities or in front-line service to industries or to the Park itself, and companies producing high-tech products or requiring advanced technology input.

The Technology Park has become the Basque Country's High Technology Development Centre, and is now spearheading the region's spirited drive to meet the challenges of the future through creative use of resources and innovation.



### The First Thirty

So far, thirty companies have been screened and admitted to the Basque Technology Park. It is expected that several more applicants will be given the green light this year, and that decisions will be made as quickly as possible regarding another fifty now on the waiting list.

The companies that have been admitted to the Technology Park vary in their requirements, and some have opted to lease building space from the Park, while others have built their own facilities. The companies represent a wide variety of sectors, including electronics, computer technology, CAD/CAM, quality management, telecommunications and industrial robots.

The Park gives priority to innovative companies involved in areas such as R & D, collaboration with universities and technology centres, or the application, diffusion, development and sale of new technologies. Other important factors are a company's ability to attract other firms to the area, their growth potential, worker qualifications and the technical and economic feasibility of the project.

Companies can choose either to purchase land and build their own facilities, or to lease ready-made premises from the Park at monthly rates varying according to the amount of floor space occupied. A scheme is available to these companies for a twelve-year purchase option.

Services offered by the Basque Technology Park include internal and external telephone communications, computer services, data bases, telex, telefax, a secretarial pool, meeting rooms, management support services, legal advice, accountants and tax consultants, marketing and financial advice, import/export service, dining facilities, public transport and maintenance.

Companies located in the Park may apply for State aid, which is available in various forms including subsidies for as much as 30 percent of the approved investment. Among other possibilities, the Basque Government and Provincial Councils have created a generous Aid to Investment Plan, in addition to which the Bizkaia Provincial Council has established a series of tax incentives.

### A Port Of Call For Telecommunications in the Basque Country

Telefónica, the Spanish equivalent of British Telecom, and SPRI, the Basque Regional Development Agency and majority shareholder in the Technology Park, have signed an agreement for the construction of a Teleport which will give the Basque Country the chance to use an advanced, complex telecommunications system that will keep it in touch with the rest of the world. The Teleport is to be installed at the Basque Technology Park.

The system will provide the Basque Country with an infrastructure capable of processing transmissions of up to two megabits, using satellites with international coverage. The teleport itself will consist of two sectors: the control room and the aerial park.

The first is to be located in a new Communications Centre that Telefónica is to set up at the Technology Park, while the parabolic dishes will provide access to the satellites belonging to EUTELSAT, INTELSAT and, once it is in orbit, the new Spanish satellite known as HISPASAT.

The Teleport will provide all sorts of services, includ-

ing computer-to-computer communication for data transfer on a large scale, electronic information delivery, remote printing, video communication, local area network interconnection, and trunk connections for networks integrating voice, data and video.

Within two years, the Technology Park will also boast an Advanced Communications Centre, to be installed in a building with a surface area of some 1,400 square metres. The new Centre is to include a Telefónica Centre with digital technology, an Ibercom access centre, transmission node and a video conference room that will be available to all Basque firms, providing a link-up service with any other conference room in Spain, western Europe, the United States and Japan.

The Communications Centre, which is to receive financial backing from the EC-run STAR programme, will also provide advanced telecommunications services for the Txorierri valley, where the town of Zamudio, home of the Technology Park, is located. In the meantime, the Technology Park has set about creating the link system that will connect up with

Telefónica's communications network for voice, video and data. Given the special characteristics of the companies to be housed at the Park, a distribution circuit has been designed to include two networks of very different technological nature. A conventional network for conventional voice circuits and access to Ibercom and Iberpac will be superimposed on a second, less conventional network. This second network consists of a seven kilometre-long cable carrying sixty-four optical fibres with a virtually unlimited transmission capability.

The estimated total cost for all these projects comes to around 1,800 million pesetas, of which 725 million will go towards the Teleport, 860 million to the Communications Centre and the rest to the optical fibre ring and transmission equipment. Besides financing its internal communications project, the Technology Park has also agreed to make over 10,000 square metres of land for Telefónica to construct the Teleport and the Advanced Communications Centre. The STAR Programme is to provide more than 500 million pesetas.

### Working Together

The Technology Park's *raison d'être*, besides offering an up-to-the-minute luxury home for a number of lucky companies and a wide range of services to the business world in general, is to provide a meeting-ground for Technology Centres and University-based research, research-workers and students. Traffic between the five Technology Centres and the two universities is essential.

80,000 Basques are currently studying at the region's two universities, the publicly backed University of the Basque Country - set up only nine years ago - and the University of Deusto, a private institution founded and run by the Jesuits, which has just celebrated its centenary year. Both universities are based in Bilbao, with faculties scattered throughout the rest of the Autonomous Community. Between the two, they provide enough places to satisfy the higher academic needs of the 2.5% of the Basque Country's

2,134,000 inhabitants who want a university education.

Last year, nearly 300 companies in the Basque Country invested 20,000 million pesetas in R&D activities, providing jobs for more than 1,500 scientists, technicians and lab workers in the process.

These figures can be read as the statistical evidence of the interest and effort being made by Basque entrepreneurs to put the R&D activities in the region on a footing with those of the rest of industrialized Europe. But this private initiative would not have been possible without public aid, in this case provided by the Basque Government Department of Trade and Industry, which has made grants and subsidies available for this kind of work.

More than 500 scientists are employed on research work at the five Technology Centres grouped under the wing of the Basque Government.

The Centres, which cover almost every single technological variation to be found in the region's industrial fabric, have been set the task of contributing to the renovation of Basque firms' technological capability and expertise.

After a phase of internal reorganization lasting several years, they have really taken off as far as personnel qualification levels and participation in international projects are concerned. A hundred or so researchers are now involved in the development of 24 international projects in 10 programmes, most notably Brité Eureka and Esprit.

Each centre has had a different beginning, and developed along its own lines. Tekniker, for instance, is a private association founded in 1981, which was established on what used to be the Metallurgical Laboratories of the Eibar College of Gunsmiths. Its main objective is to help the small and medium-sized company to

adapt to advances in leading-edge technology and production systems and processes.

Tekniker does research projects on the links and interrelationships between materials, machineability and the different chemical and metallurgical parameters of the products of the process.

Labein started life in 1955 as a laboratory for the Higher School of Industrial Engineers in Bilbao. It is currently governed by an association of representatives from different institutions. Labein is given over mainly to industrially applied research in sectors like construction, electronics, electrotechnics, the environment, the chemical industry, CAD/CAM, hydraulics, computers and mechanics.

More than 100 companies provide support for Inasmet, a non-profit making association created in 1962. Inasmet concentrates fundamentally on metallur-

gy, the chemical industry and non-metallic materials and processes, which covers sectors like steelworks, rolling, casting, forging, heat treatments, welding and capital goods.

Ikerlan is a non-profit making services cooperative that functions as a research centre in electronics, mechanics, computers, production systems, robotics and methods of saving energy. It was founded in 1974 and has carried out a good number of research projects on behalf of firms from several sectors.

Finally, there is CEIT, the Centre for Technical Studies and Research, which is also non-profit making, which was set up in 1982 with the object of bringing technological research up to date through specific, highly relevant research projects with scientific or technical content. The Centre has several departments, working on areas which include materials, electronics-automation, applied mechanics and the environment.

Issued by the Basque Technology Park

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# Woolf says poor conditions led to prison riots

Quentin Cowdry analyses the main proposals in the 600-page report from the Woolf enquiry into Britain's worst penal riots

A NETWORK of community jails and a system of contracts defining the prison service's duties to prisoners and inmates' responsibilities were called for yesterday by the Woolf enquiry into the 1990 prison riots.

The 600-page report identifies poor jail conditions as the key underlying cause of the worst disturbances in the history of Britain's penal system, but it also strongly criticises management and the failure of successive governments to fund the service adequately.

Lord Justice Woolf, who led the government-appointed enquiry, acknowledges the prison service's determination to reform. But he says future changes should concentrate strongly on improving the treatment of inmates.

The report lays down a dozen main recommendations or "signposts" for the future. These include proposals for setting national standards for prisons, improved conditions for remand prisoners, a system of contracts outlining the responsibilities of the service's director-general and his governors and the introduction of community jails. If implemented, penal reformers say, the proposals would effect the biggest advance in prison policy this century.

Recognising the importance of inmates retaining links with their families and local communities, the Court of Appeal judge says the prison

estate should be reorganised so that most inmates are imprisoned near to their homes. At present, inmates are sent to so-called local jails on being sentenced to be assessed for security risk and are then moved, sometimes more than 100 miles away, to "training" or "dispersal" jails.

Under the plan devised by the five-member enquiry team, which included Judge Tumm, the chief inspector of prisons, inmates would either spend all their sentences in a single jail or in several prisons clustered closely together.

Lord Justice Woolf recommends that each prison should hold no more than 400 prisoners, substantially fewer than many houses at present, and should be divided into six to eight units, each providing different regimes. Such an approach would allow prisoners of different security categories to be held together. Some maximum security offenders, however, would still be detained in specialist establishments.

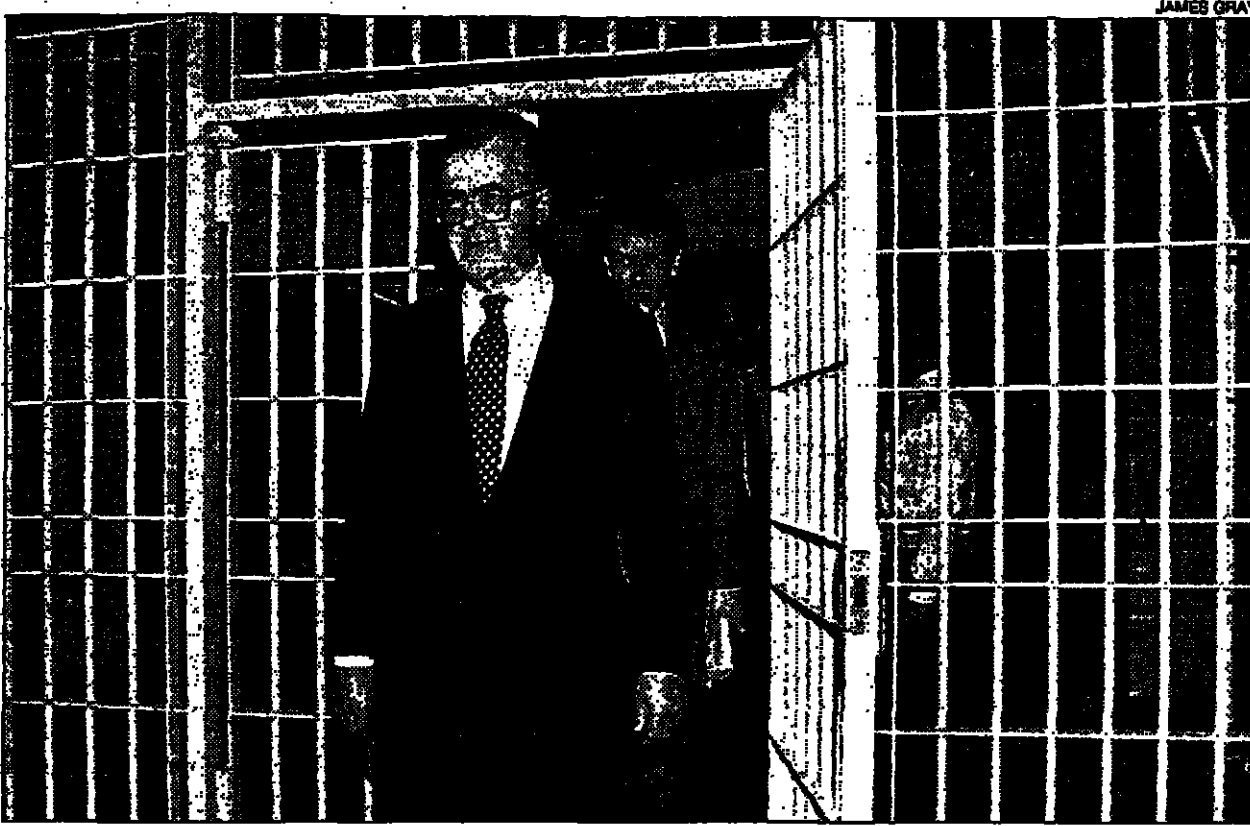
A series of other recommendations reflect Lord Justice Woolf's view that part of the prison system's troubles stem from a lack of clearly defined standards and performance targets. He says that the prison service should draw up a code of minimum standards covering jail regimes and their physical conditions. Managers should then set each prison deadlines for meeting the standards; when all were

met the jail would be "accredited" by the home secretary.

As part of the same thinking, the Home Office would make a contract, or compact, each year with the director-general of the prison service. This document, which would be published, would identify the funds made available to the service, stipulate priorities and define management's responsibilities.

Lord Justice Woolf, who says there was a lack of visible leadership from the prison department during last year's riots, suggests the director-general should also become a more public figure. He notes that Brian Ems, then the service's deputy director-general, took most of the key operational decisions during the disturbances.

Prisoners would also be included in the drive to establish standards and monitor performance. Each inmate would be given a document



Inside Pentonville: Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, visiting the 149-year-old jail, where only one wing has cells with flush toilets. The three other wings will continue to sleep out until an £11 million refurbishment is finished.

outlining broad details of the jail's regime. "If the prisoner's expectations were not fulfilled, he would be entitled to enlist the aid of the board of visitors or to invoke the grievance procedures to ensure that the prison did not unreasonably depart from the 'contract'," the report says. The

contract could also provide a platform for the inmate to seek redress in the courts.

The enquiry team accepted prison administrators' claims that overcrowding had thwarted efforts to improve conditions and relations with staff. The report says ministers should introduce a rule

that no jail should hold more inmates than its official limit.

To accommodate short-term increases in numbers, jails would be allowed to exceed their certified normal accommodation by up to 3 per cent for seven days in any three months. But further departures from the rule would only

be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

Another destructive feature of the prison system is the prevalence of slopping out, the report says. It urges ministers to commit themselves publicly to ending the practice by no later than February 1996.

Clifford Longley, Page 14

## 12 recommendations

The report recommends a shake-up of the prison system which prison reformers described yesterday as potentially the greatest step forward in penal policy this century.

There are 12 main recommendations aimed at preventing a recurrence of the riots which last April brought injury and destruction to the prison system.

- closer co-operation between different parts of criminal justice system.
- the creation of a network of community jails.
- Home Office to set national prison standards.
- jails not to hold more inmates than the official limit.
- director general of prison service to provide more visible leadership.
- greater delegation of responsibility to governors.
- better training and promotion prospects for prison officers.
- written contracts for prisoners defining their expectations and duties.
- a clear date to be set for abolition of slopping out.
- the division of prisons into smaller units.
- separate conditions for remand prisoners.
- improved standards of justice within jails.

## Mutiny 'should have been halted quickly by force'

By RONALD FAUX

A PLAN to retake Strangeways on the second day of the riot should have gone ahead but was rejected by Brian Ems, deputy director general of the prison service, the report said. The plan was produced by Brendan O'Friel, the governor, with advice from his staff and a national control and restraint instructor.

Mr Ems failed to take sufficiently into account the importance of not allowing what became a mutiny to continue. Mr O'Friel put the plan to Mr Ems over the telephone as Mr Ems left a meeting with ministers just before 3 pm on April 2. The report says: "Neither was in the ideal setting to make a long and detailed assessment of the intervention plan. They did not do so. Mr Ems decided that the attack should not take place and discussion turned to an alternative plan to destroy or remove food in the kitchen. This was approved."

Lord Justice Woolf said that during the telephone conversation Mr Ems was under the misapprehension that Mr O'Friel agreed with his decision not to go ahead. Mr O'Friel was in fact strongly in favour of proceeding with the main attack but failed to make it clear to Mr Ems. "A decision of this importance should not have been taken in this manner. If Mr Ems had appreciated he was taking a different view from Mr O'Friel, it would have been wrong to have overruled Mr O'Friel. The plan should have been allowed to proceed," the report said.

Although Mr Ems had shown great strength of character and leadership in being prepared to take a clear and firm decision against intervention, he was not, during the telephone conversation, in any position to take the decision he did.

The report levelled harsh criticism at the "unacceptable and inhumane" conditions in which prisoners were held at Strangeways. Lord Justice Woolf said that inmates had repeatedly told the enquiry that if they were treated like animals they would behave like animals. With 1,647 inmates Strangeways was grossly overcrowded, conditions were degrading and inmates spent too long in cells without sanitation and with too little opportunity to bathe and to change their clothes. The management and staff were faced with immense problems due to the failure of governments to provide the resources to cope humanely with an increased prison population. In spite of many warnings that there could be trouble in

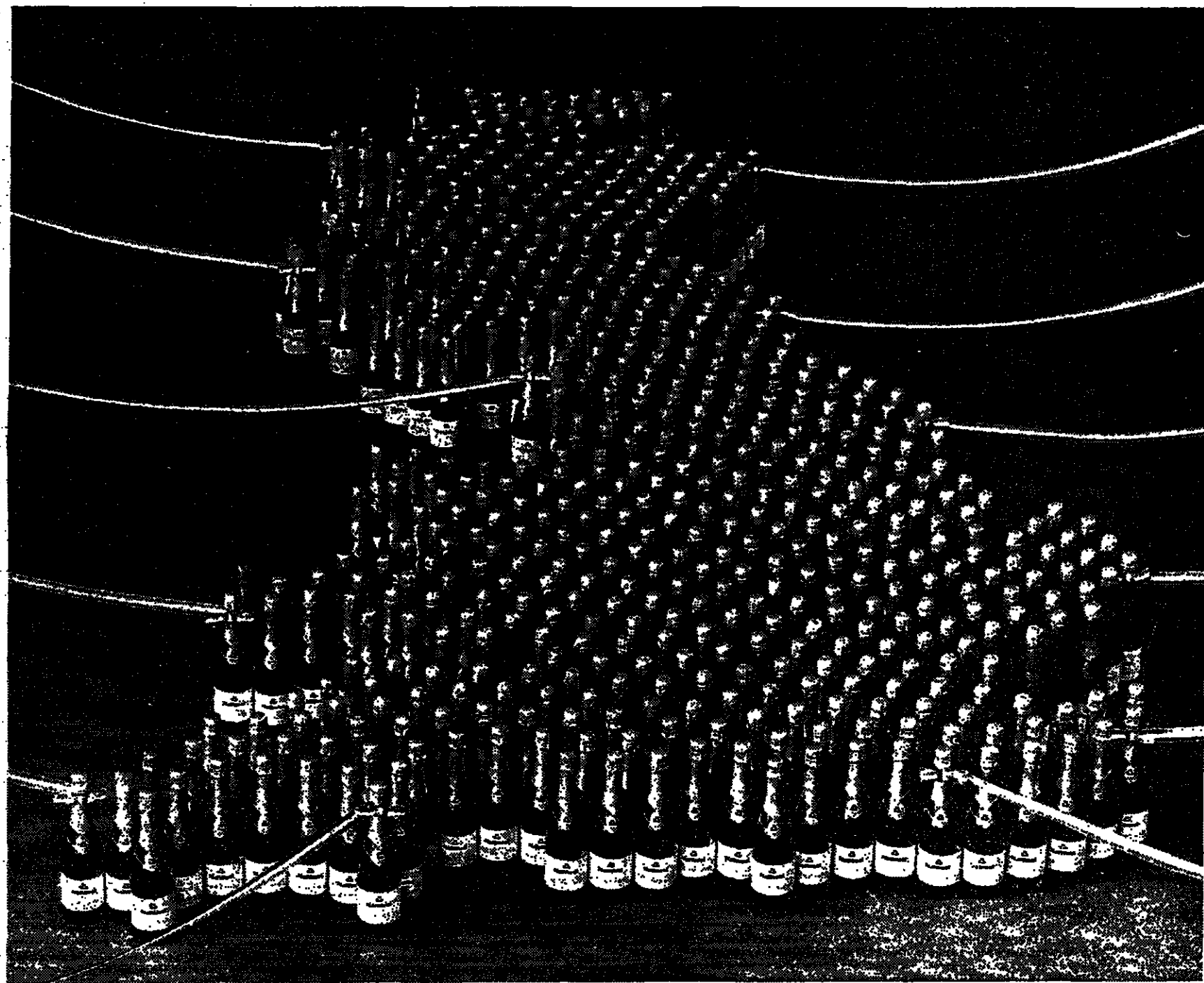


Defiant: a prisoner at the height of the siege

the prison chapel on the morning the riot started, their significance was not appreciated and there was a breakdown in communications between staff and governors. The reason the disturbance developed so rapidly, the report said, was because staff and management were unprepared and because the early stages were ineptly handled. Probably no more than 12 inmates in the chapel intended to create a disturbance and they were almost certainly astonished by their

success at being able to take control of the whole prison. The ensuing riot caused £20 million damage and injury to 147 staff and 47 prisoners and may have contributed to the death of one injured prisoner, the report said.

The Strangeways riot also proved to be the catalyst for unrest and disturbances across many parts of the prison system, the report said. Control and restraint units did not regain control of the building until April 25. The report found that the scale and length of the disturbance was in part due to the way in which it was handled and the decision not to go ahead with Mr O'Friel's plan to retake the jail.



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# Disputed evidence may end the saga of the Birmingham Six

ON A November morning in 1974 Frank Skuse, a Home Office forensic scientist, walked through a police station at Morecambe, Lancashire, carefully checking a kit for detecting explosive traces. The chemicals were in a cardboard box and the bottom could give way at any moment.

It was an inauspicious start to a case which has haunted the criminal justice system for over a decade. Dr Skuse was on his way to test a group of Irishmen held on their way to the republic. Hours earlier the IRA had blown up two Birmingham public houses, killing 21 and injuring 166.

The case before Lancaster Crown Court in mid-1975 was that five of the six were going to the funeral of James McDade, an IRA volunteer who blew himself up in Coventry a week before the bombings. Dr Skuse carried out initial tests on the five which showed that two had been handling nitroglycerine and four of the men

**The Birmingham Six may be close to being freed. Stewart Tandler looks into a decade of doubt about the case against them**

confessed. The sixth was implicated and arrested in Birmingham.

The defence said that Dr Skuse's positive results for nitro-glycerine using the Griess test could have been caused by nitro-cellulose. The test involved taking a smear from a suspect's hands and testing for a chemical reaction showing the presence of nitro-glycerine. The confessions were the result of police beatings and intimidation, the defence said. The confessions were tested by the court and put to the jury.

Mr Justice Bridge, later to become Lord Bridge of Harwich, told the six after their



The Six (from left) Patrick Hill, Hugh Callaghan, John Walker, Richard McIlkenny, Gerard Hunter and William Power

conviction they had been found guilty by the "clearest and most overwhelming evidence I have ever heard". A year later in the Court of Appeal the defence claimed he had failed to remind the jury sufficiently or at all of certain key ingredients of the defence case.

Lord Widgery, then Lord Chief Justice, and two other judges rejected the appeal. The forensic evidence had been critical for Mr Justice Bridge but not for Lord Widgery. He felt it was contradictory since the first tests were not confirmed by laboratory checks. Police brutality was rejected. However, injuries visible at

the men's second remand appearance led to an external police enquiry which concluded that the injuries had been caused by officers at Winslow Green prison. The six men used evidence by Dr David Paul, a consultant in forensic science, and now coroner for the City of London, to start a civil action against the police over their injuries. Dr Paul, called by the prison officers in their trial, had examined pictures of the six which he said showed they were assaulted by the police. Attempts by the West Midlands police to stop the action reached the Court of Appeal in 1980 where Lord Denning, the

Master of the Rolls, and two other judges upheld the police, who claimed the matter had been aired in the 1975 trial.

Lord Denning argued that if the men lost the case it would be a huge waste of money. If they won they would have to be pardoned, the evidence should never have been accepted and police were guilty of illegality.

That, he said, was "such an appalling vista that every sensible person in the land would say: it cannot be right that these actions should go any further". The men had committed gross perjury in their trials but the state had continued to finance their

case. The action was "no more than an attempt to set aside the convictions on a side wind".

The men's fight did not stop. The Griess test was questioned in 1980 by a magazine. The scientist who refined the test indicated that positive results could be produced by cigarette smoke. In 1985 Granada TV's *World in Action* examined Dr Skuse's methods suggesting that positive tests could have been caused by nitro-cellulose absorbed from playing cards or other harmless objects used by the men.

police constable and a police cleaner with evidence of police assaults, but Mr Clarke and the WPC were shown as potentially flawed witnesses. In January 1988 the appeal was thrown out by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, and two other judges who supported the forensic evidence and pointed to other material at the original trial. Lord Lane said: "The longer this has gone on the more convinced we are that the jury was correct."

But was it? In the summer of 1989 a wide-ranging enquiry began into the West Midlands serious crime squad amid allegations of fabricated evidence. Its members included officers who were involved in the Birmingham case.

In March last year the Home Office ordered a new investigation into the bombing case. Last autumn the case went back to the Court of Appeal yet again. New doubts were growing about the forensic evidence.

Leading article, page 15

## Fears of switch in IRA tactics after rail bomb attack

By DAVID YOUNG AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Provisional IRA were blamed yesterday for the first bomb attack on a British rail main line after an explosion on the London Midland railway at St Albans minutes before a crowded high speed InterCity train was due to pass. There were no injuries.

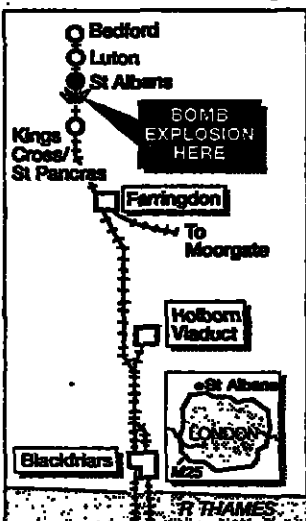
Anti-terrorist branch officers from Scotland Yard are worried that the blast represents a dangerous new dimension in IRA tactics. The bomb tipped a yard-long stretch of line from one of the four tracks running through St Albans and caused delays and cancellations for about 17,000 commuters.

The explosion occurred one mile south of the station at 6.25am, and a week after the IRA bomb at Victoria station which heralded the start of daily bomb scares at London stations.

Police from Hertfordshire and British Transport, together with 20 specialists from the anti-terrorist branch, examined debris to determine whether the bomb was detonated by a timing device or whether it was intended to be set off by remote control as the train passed. No one has yet claimed responsibility for the bombing but a Scotland Yard spokesman said that there was strong evidence that it was the work of the Provisional IRA.

Police were alerted to the bomb after a section of the track crashed through a garage roof belonging to Michael Easterbrook, the assistant commander of Hertfordshire special constabulary, wrecking his new Citroen car.

Police said they had received no warning, although British Rail had been warned that an explosive device had been planted at St Pancras station, which was immediately closed. It has also emerged



that exactly a week ago British Rail had been told that an explosive device was due to go off in the St Albans area following the bomb attacks on Paddington and Victoria stations but a search had found nothing.

Scotland Yard said that attempts had been made by the IRA in the past to blow up trackside railway equipment but never a stretch of line where trains could be travelling at more than 100mph. "It is a dangerous precedent and one aimed at causing maximum disruption," a senior officer said.

British Rail said yesterday that the stretch of line was regularly examined on foot by civil engineering staff, as often as three times a week. The stretch of track attacked yesterday, however, borders open wasteland used as an overspill car park by the St Albans Golf Club and there is easy access to the line from both sides.

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Stations close for checks

By ROBIN YOUNG

ALL mainline railway stations in London were closed yesterday morning shortly after the explosion on the track outside St Albans, and stayed shut throughout the rush hour.

British Transport police issued an alert at 6.57 am, and British Rail said that all trains were stopped and stations evacuated by 7.10 am. The transport police did not explain its reasons for advising the closure.

British Rail said: "The decision to close the stations was taken in the interests of public safety. For obvious security reasons we do not wish to discuss what led us to take the decision, but police did carry out searches at all the stations, without finding anything."

Warnings to people not to travel by train into London were broadcast from 7.20 am. Nearly half a million passengers were delayed but they suffered less disruption than during last week's closures. Trains stopped at stations before the termini and passengers transferred to buses and Tubes. British Rail had arranged with London Underground that tickets would be valid for onward journeys.

All stations, including St Pancras, reopened during the day and British Rail said that it expected services today to be back to normal.

Stations close for checks

By ROBIN YOUNG



Deterioration: Susan Gardner, a legal secretary, is forced to work through York's flooded streets yesterday by her husband, an oarsman in the city's annual Viking festival (Peter Daveport writes). Although riverside roads were under water, leaving hotels, commercial properties, a fire station and pub awash, flood water from the Ouse failed to reach its predicted record level. An £8 million defence system, built after the city's worst floods nine years ago, kept Yorkshire, towns and villages and thousands of acres of farmland were affected by the worst flooding in the area for more than 100 years.

higher than the record set in 1962. At lunchtime, however, a marker on the Ouse Bridge showed that the river had peaked at 15ft 6in. Elsewhere in North Yorkshire, towns and villages and thousands of acres of farmland were affected by the worst flooding in the area for more than 100 years.

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## Stricken coaster towed to port

A coaster carrying explosives, which caught fire in the Channel and for a time threatened to become a floating bomb, was last night being towed by a salvage vessel to a port in the west country, probably Falmouth (John Young writes).

The transport department, which had been monitoring developments, said that the danger was considered to be over and the incident closed.

The 425-tonne Breydon Merchant, Greek-owned but registered in London, was off Newhaven, East Sussex, when a fire started in the engine room on Sunday. She was carrying about 450 tonnes of commercial explosives and detonators, destined for Drogheda in the Irish Republic.

After making a mayday call to coastguards, all four crew were airlifted to safety by helicopter.

Pensioner killed

A pensioner died when she walked into an 11,000-volt electricity cable as she went to help at the scene of a road crash 100 yards from her home. Carina Van Eyck, aged 64, of Birdcroft, Essex, brushed against the live cable in darkness as it dangled from a telegraph pole damaged in the accident and was thrown across the road. Essex police are investigating the incident and Eastern Electricity has launched an enquiry.

Troubled acres

Thousands of acres of school playing fields will be sold for development in the next 18 months, the Liberal Democrats claimed yesterday (John O'Leary writes). A survey of 63 education authorities in England and Wales showed that 60 per cent were proposing to sell land and that almost 4,000 acres of playing fields could disappear, Matthew Taylor, the party's education spokesman, said.

Ex-PC jailed

Christopher Larkin, aged 27, a former police constable who left the Thames Valley force because he was driven to drink by the Hungerford massacre, robbed a building society in Newbury, Berkshire, of £2,200 last March. His crime came to light when he confessed to his mother in October while drunk. Reading Crown Court heard yesterday when Larkin, of Wokingham, was jailed for six years.

Heat killed dog

A former mayress of Wyre, Lancashire, was acquitted yesterday of allowing her dog to die from heat exhaustion in the civic limousine, but her chauffeur James Powell, of Fleetwood, was found guilty and given a conditional discharge. Lancaster magistrates refused Mrs Marjorie Whitehead's application for costs.

Arts post filled

Clive Priestley, aged 55, former head of the prime minister's efficiency unit, has been appointed chairman of the London Arts Board, successor body to Greater London Arts, which is being disbanded next month. The post was due to have been filled by last November.

Free parking

Motorists in Brighton parked free yesterday after a delay in starting the town's new voucher scheme. Department of Transport approval, required to make the scheme legal, had not been signed.

## Sinn Fein chief's trial hears informer's taped confession

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A TAPED confession to IRA interrogators by a police informer who feared he was to be shot, was played in court yesterday.

The recording, which was broken up into short disjointed segments after being re-constituted by police experts, appeared to consist of descriptions of a number of operations carried out by Alexander Joseph Lynch for the police, the amount of money he received for them and a plea by him for mercy.

Mr Lynch, who was giving evidence at Belfast crown court during the trial of Danny Morrison, the former director of publicity for Sinn Fein, could be heard on the tape referring to his police "handlers" and to sums of money varying from £20 to £400. Later, under cross examination, he admitted that not all the information on the tape was true, that some had been put in at the behest of his captors and that he had understood payments, hoping that this might save him from being shot.

Danny Morrison, aged 38, from Belfast, and six other defendants deny falsely imprisoning Mr Lynch and conspiring with others to murder him between January 4 and January 8 last year.

Mr Lynch, who was a member of the Irish National Liberation Army between 1983 and 1988 before joining the IRA and has spent at least 11 years in jail, described how he had been taken by his IRA commander to a house in West Belfast where he thought they were going to check out a

target. Instead he was held and blindfolded by men who said they were "IRA security".

Mr Lynch said he was later interrogated by two teams and it was made clear to him that he would not survive unless he admitted his activities. Mr Lynch said that a man called Scappatoni said "that if I didn't admit to being a tout (informer), I'd wake up in South Armagh and he'd be able to talk to me the way he wanted, hung upside down in a cattle shed. He said it didn't matter about me screaming because no one would be able to hear."

Mr Lynch described how, after being given an hour's ultimatum, he admitted his work for the police and made a written statement which he recorded on tape. Then the police and army burst into the house to rescue him.

Mr Lynch rejected suggestions by defence lawyers that there was no plan to shoot him. He said it was well known that the IRA's punishment for informers was death. The trial continues today.

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## Miracle opportunities arrive in Britain

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

TELEVANGELISM, the American talent for bringing miracles to the masses, conquering Satan and collecting a dollar or two along the way, arrived in Britain yesterday.

The Morris Cerullo World Evangelism organisation, which launched a half-hour daily satellite evangelism programme, is also negotiating for 32 hours of satellite broadcasting a week.

In America, the phenomenon has been tainted by the scandal and impropriety that has surrounded several evangelists. Mr Cerullo's aides emphasised his spotless financial record, his marriage to the same woman for 37 years, and his impeccable credentials of the spirit. He does not, for example, canvass funds on air. He encourages viewers to see

the floor from where he leaped up, joyfully proclaiming a miracle because the demons were gone.

Mr Cerullo said that in 1962 God said to him: "Build me an army." In a more recent and more modern message, God told him: "Son, establish a global satellite network that will reach around the world."

Eric Shego, Church of England director of communications, said the concern about Mr Cerullo's programmes was that they would raise false hopes. "People desperate for a cure would not only feel their own faith had been lacking but also have their hopes raised that this man would be an instrument for healing."

Victory with Morris Cerullo, as the programme is called, is broadcast across America and Canada. In a recent broadcast one woman in the audience said that she was possessed. Mr Cerullo pressed his hands on her head and pushed her to



Cerullo: launched satellite evangelism programme

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# Military structure of Warsaw Pact is finally laid to rest

FROM ERNEST BECK IN BUDAPEST

THE Warsaw Pact, once considered the monolithic symbol of Soviet military domination of Eastern Europe, was ceremoniously laid to rest yesterday as foreign and defence ministers of the six member states agreed to a rapid timetable for scrapping its Moscow-based military command.

The document, signed by Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and the Soviet Union, calls for all "military organs, institutions and activities" to be dismantled by March 31, the date proposed recently by President Gorbachev. This is several months ahead of dates put forward by Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland and reflects a Soviet switch towards the wishes of its three most reform-minded former allies.

The agreement fails to set a definite date for dissolving the

pact's political structure, which will be transformed temporarily into a purely voluntary consultative organisation. Geza Jeszensky, the Hungarian foreign minister, told the ministers that the "end of the road" for the political body should be reached by the end of this year or by March 1992, to coincide with the next CSCE European security summit in Helsinki.

Mr Gorbachev would like political co-operation to remain intact. This would placate conservative forces and the military at home, and promote continued contacts with Moscow's former socialist allies. However, most pact members, who now control their own armed forces and foreign policy decisions, consider both structures are defunct.

Last-minute Soviet demands for the other members

to renounce all financial claims and to guarantee further employment for officers at the Moscow headquarters threatened to hold up the signing of the agreement yesterday, but the differences were ironed out during an early morning plenary session.

The signing ceremony that effectively ended the Cold War was a solemn and emotional moment, especially for Hungary and Czechoslovakia which suffered Soviet and Warsaw Pact military interventions. A joint communiqué declared that "the legacy of confrontation and a divided Europe is now over" and all future security issues would reflect each sovereign nation's "freedom of choice".

In a parting shot Mr Jeszensky described the pact as an "organisation resting on mistaken fundamentals which has outlived itself". Jiri Dienstbier, the Czechoslovak foreign minister, said the agreement "only confirms what has already happened and represents a further step on the road to Europe". Marshal Dimitri Yazov, the Soviet defence minister, said the impending dissolution was "excellent".

Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland are moving towards bilateral military co-operation agreements with each other and with the Soviet Union, while simultaneously strengthening their ties with Nato's political organisation. Joining Nato or declaring neutrality have been largely ruled out until a new, pan-European security system emerges through the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

● **BRUSSELS** — Former communist East European countries will press more vigorously for membership of the European Community as Comecon, the alliance that tied their economies artificially to the Soviet Union, is disbanded (Peter Gifford writes). However, the ministry for external commercial relations in Budapest said yesterday that a summit to dissolve the Soviet-led trading bloc, planned for this week, had been postponed indefinitely.

A senior EC spokesman said yesterday that the abolition of Comecon would complicate the present drafting of special association deals between the community and Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary. The three countries want full membership and will "increase pressure" on Brussels to promise it, he said. "Europe agreements" could be signed this autumn, but officials insist they will not automatically offer full EC membership.

Community finance ministers yesterday approved further funding for Eastern Europe to bolster political and market reforms. They agreed to lend \$500 million to be shared between Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania over two years.

Leading article, page 15

## Treaty founder sheds no tears

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT IN BUDAPEST

AS THE foreign and defence ministers of the Warsaw Pact gathered here this week to sound its death knell, one man was watching with feelings of satisfaction and a sense of historical inevitability. Andras Hegedus, the Hungarian prime minister in 1955, made the fateful trip to Warsaw to sign the treaty which sealed his nation's fate behind the iron curtain.

A year later, on the day the 1956 uprising against communist rule began, Yuri Andropov, the late Soviet leader who was then ambassador to Budapest, ordered him to sign the letter "inviting" Soviet troops into Hungary.

Today Mr Hegedus, the only head-of-government signatory still alive, is a slow-moving, retired sociologist who lives a quiet life in the Buda Hills, amid dusty books and memories of a repressive Stalinist era he helped to create, but whose many excesses he now deplores.

Then, however, he was a stalwart believer in the communist cause. When he returned from Warsaw, he told the Soviet line in a speech to the Hungarian parliament by railing against the threat of "West German revanchism". "I sincerely thought it was the right thing to do at the time; that it would really increase security in Europe," Mr Hegedus recalls. Although in 1956 the troops were called in under a mutual co-operation clause, Mr Hegedus says Andropov wanted his initials to legitimise the siege. But he says, "the troops would have come anyway after Imre Nagy declared Hungary's neutrality and its withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact".

Mr Hegedus never saw the tanks and the carnage they caused because he escaped to

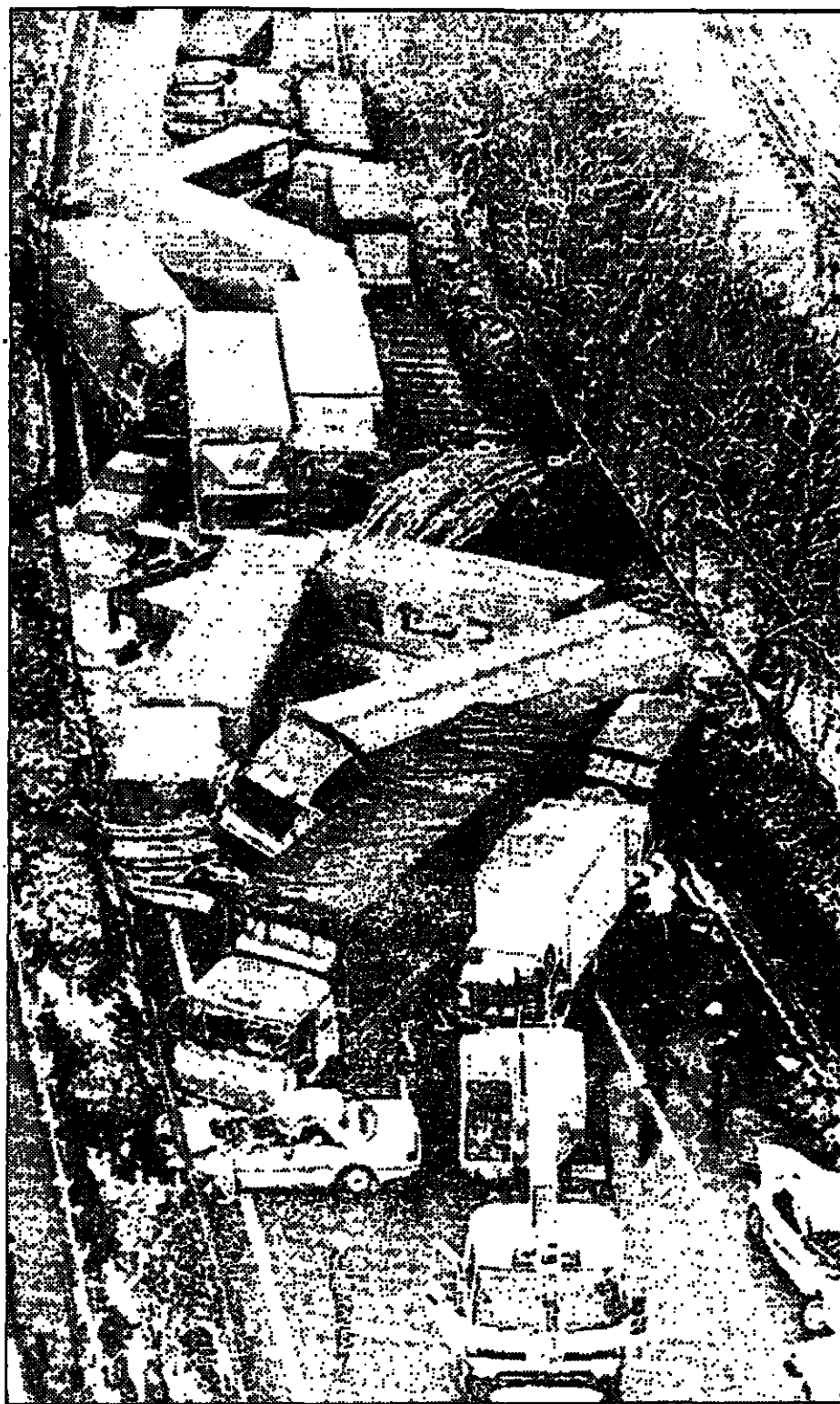


Hegedus realised too late that it was all a mistake

what he calls "comfortable exile" in Moscow, returning in 1958 after Janos Kadar executed Nagy and his comrades for advocating a parliamentary democracy.

Like many Hungarian communists who later rebelled against the Soviet Union, this was a turning point for Mr Hegedus, who quickly rejected totalitarianism and embraced the mantle of reform. When the pact crushed the Prague Spring in 1968, he denounced the move and was later purged from the party for "anti-Marxist behaviour". His home in the hills, from where one can clearly see the former Hungarian communist party headquarters on the Danube, became a haven for dissidents advocating political change.

Mr Hegedus says that he is "happy to be alive" to see today's dissolution of the pact and that its demise was foreseeable decades ago when Stalinism was rightly disgraced. But as witness to a critical moment in European history, he has no illusions about his role. "I realised only later that it was all a mistake, like all military blocs are," he says with a wry smile, adding, "I would also like to be alive to see Nato disappear."



Crash scene: lorries and cars strewn haphazardly across the Tokyo to Nagoya motorway in central Japan after a pile-up in which at least seven people died

## Georgian villages locked in vicious ethnic battle

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN TBILISI

NORTH of Gori, where Stalin was born in Soviet Georgia, there are neighbouring villages where residents are now killing and kidnapping one another instead of trading, socialising and inter-marrying as they had done for decades.

Yesterday it was reported that missiles, hand-grenades and gunfire on Sunday killed at least six people and wounded eight in Avnevi, in South Ossetia. The attack appeared to be the latest in a series of ethnic clashes between Georgians and South Ossetians.

The victims, including a policeman, were identified by Tass as Georgians. Hours after the attack Soviet interior ministry troops were shelled near the South Ossetian "capital" of Tskhinvali, Tass said.

So vicious is the cycle of eye-for-an-eye attacks involving Georgians and the Ossetian minority that the roads and stony tracks criss-crossing the region are now highly dangerous to travel along except in the 16-tonne armoured personnel carriers

used by the small contingent of Soviet interior ministry troops deployed there since December.

The political conflict between Tbilisi's nationalist government and the leaders of South Ossetia, who want to remain in the Soviet Union rather than belong to an independent Georgia, translates on the ground into large-scale human tragedy.

An effective Georgian blockade has for several weeks left Tskhinvali without electricity or communications, and with minimal supplies of food and water. Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the Georgian president, ingeniously ascribes the power blackout to a spontaneous protest by electricity workers angered by Soviet separatism. It would be a violation of the Helsinki accords to interfere with the strike, he insists. He is adamant, too, that the Ossetian problem has arisen simply because of efforts by Moscow to subvert his pro-independence government.

At the Georgian police base overlooking Tskhinvali, which says it faces nightly shelling and machine-gun fire from Ossetian fighters, there are several lorries loaded with food and basic provisions offered by the Georgian branch of the Red Cross.

The siege has clearly caused acute suffering to the old and the sick inside the town, but

the Ossetian leadership has refused the provisions, because it will not accept aid from its "Georgian tormentors".

At the police station in Gori civilians carrying rifles mill around chaotically, demanding the right to avenge the recent deaths of two Georgian policemen.

An elderly policeman who drove myself and another newsman most of the way to Tskhinvali rehearsed the standard arguments about Ossetia. "They came to our country as refugees last century, we took them in because we felt sorry for them," he said. "And now they want to take part of our country away. How can guests behave like that?"

At Tskhinvali, looking at the position of the Soviet troops, it is hard to believe that any serious military operations could be conducted from the town without their connivance. Certainly it is clear that they are on good terms with the Ossetian political leadership.

● **MOSCOW**: Thirty-three people have been killed in inter-ethnic clashes in Georgia in the past few weeks. Boris Pugo, the Soviet interior minister, told parliament here yesterday. Fourteen of those killed were ethnic Ossetians and 19 ethnic Georgians, he said, adding that there were now some 4,000 refugees in the Caucasus republic. (AFP)

## Hoxha rallies held as unrest in city grows

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN TIRANA AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

ALBANIAN communists in the south of the country staged rallies yesterday in support of Enver Hoxha, the late dictator who founded the modern communist state. Demonstrations orchestrated by the newly-formed Southern Front organisation were staged in several cities.

The group is led by Sulo Gradeci, one of Hoxha's bodyguards. Mr Gradeci is supported by Husni Milloshi, a former military officer and journalist, who told a rally yesterday that "Albania and Enver will have us forever".

There were increasing signs in the capital, Tirana, yesterday that the army and police no longer owe more than a token loyalty to President Aliu. At the insistence of Gramoz Paskko, the opposition Democratic party leader, the two tanks guarding the university were withdrawn. Earlier, Mr Paskko addressed a crowd outside the military academy urging them not to attack it with sticks of dynamite. The crowd dispersed almost immediately.

The area of the city that comprises most government offices and villas is equipped with underground tunnels to a nearby airfield where heightened activity was reported yesterday. A Soviet-made Yak aircraft took off late on Sunday evening and flew low over the city. The sight of several Chinese-made helicopters at the airfield yesterday fuelled speculation here that the communist leadership might be considering leaving Tirana.

The Democratic party was expected to issue a communiqué yesterday urging the president to surrender power to a Democratic government so that the country's collapsed economy could be rebuilt.

The victims of the latest violence include a 20-year-old Albanian who was shot dead when a military patrol opened fire on Sunday night. The incident followed three days of violent demonstrations in Tirana in which officials say three demonstrators and an

army officer were killed. However, opposition leaders and independent sources say at least ten people died.

The Yugoslav news agency, Tanjug, in a report from the Albanian capital, claimed that at least 20 demonstrators and police were killed, while many more were injured in the disturbances. Albanian officials said about 33 people were arrested, but again the opposition puts the figure much higher. Human rights activists have been denied access to those detained who, they said, were treated brutally.

Sources in Belgrade say that the situation has reached the point where army intervention is a real possibility, but the Albanian defence ministry was at pains to reject all such speculation, saying that Albania's armed forces were keeping cool and acting with dignity. "We are the faithful sons of our nation and will not turn against our own people," the army announcement said.

## Kremlin changes poll rules

Moscow — The Soviet parliament yesterday approved "additional measures" to counter growing resistance to the nationwide referendum on the future of the Soviet Union (Mary Dejevsky writes).

The measures are designed to ensure that everyone who can be persuaded to vote will have the opportunity to do so, even if their republic or region has decided to boycott the referendum. They would allow people to vote outside their home district without appearing on the electoral register. The result can be calculated nationally rather than on a republic basis.

## Islanders riot

St-Denis-de-la Reunion — Police fired tear gas at rampaging youths in a third day of rioting in Reunion, a French department in the Indian Ocean. The youths robbed and burned stores. The violence was triggered by the closing of a pirate television station. Political parties blamed it on poverty. (AP)

## Camp reopens

Hong Kong — Hong Kong reopened a refugee camp on Tai A Chau island here, transporting a first group of 216 Vietnamese boat people to refurbished facilities. Tai A Chau was the scene of riots and a cholera epidemic when it was last used in 1988. (AFP)

## Mao sing-along

Hong Kong — A karaoke disc of songs from the era of Mao Tse-tung, the late Chinese leader, has been produced. The karaoke, or sing-along, record includes hits like *The Bright Red Sun* and *Chairman Mao is my Dearest*. (Reuters)

## Schools reform

Johannesburg — The South African government and the African National Congress have united to tackle the increasing problems of black education by creating a high-level joint committee to address the most urgent issues.

## Soldiers killed

Tegucigalpa — Five American soldiers were killed when their helicopter crashed after developing a mechanical failure as it was flying over Lake Ilopango to an air base in Honduras. (AFP)

## Zhivkov defiant at Sofia trial

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SOFIA

TODOR Zhivkov, the former dictator of Bulgaria, appeared in fighting mood yesterday as he went on trial on charges of fraud and embezzlement. "I am not guilty. The law in this country has been violated," he said.

Outside the Supreme Court, a small crowd gathered to try to catch a glimpse of the man who had ruled Bulgaria as Moscow's most obedient servant for 35 years. Some shouted: "Give him to us. We will rip him to pieces." Mr Zhivkov, aged 79, is the first former Soviet bloc leader to be tried in public so far.

The charges against Mr Zhivkov and his former aide, Milko Balev, took an hour and a half to read. Consisting of a litany of privilege and patronage, the charges alleged that they had dispensed favours illegally to politicians, the intelligentsia, actors and artists. Besides alleging that several people had received money, flats or cars at giveaway prices, the charges also listed minor offences: one man was said to have been permitted to import parts for his car without paying customs duty.

According to the charges, Mr Zhivkov is also alleged to have misappropriated 26.5 million leva (£2 mil-



In the dock: Zhivkov, the former dictator, being tried "as a common criminal" for fraud yesterday

lion), which was channelled to senior officials.

In court, Mr Zhivkov's defence counsel claimed that the trial should be adjourned because for a month the prosecutor's office had conducted illegal investigations against their client. The judge dismissed the appeal and the trial will continue today. While Mr

Zhivkov said only a few words in court about what he regarded as a miscarriage of justice, his views on the trial were recounted in great detail in an interview in yesterday's edition of *Duma*, the newspaper of the Socialist party, the renamed communists.

In the interview, he criticised at great length "this dirty trial". He said: "They are going to try me for crime as if I was a common criminal. I am no green-grocer. I am Todor Zhivkov." He claimed that he had not yet decided whether he would defend himself in court or whether he would "leave it to history".

Mr Zhivkov added: "This will be farce, a theatre. It will bring shame on Bulgaria. It is a fake trial and definite political forces are behind it." He accused members of the Socialist party of trying to salvage their careers by blaming communism on him. "I have taken the entire political responsibility. What else do they want from me? Are they after my soul?"

According to his defence counsel, what Mr Zhivkov wants is a political trial at which he can defend his life's work. But he is being charged with crime.

In the interview, Mr Zhivkov said: "I am a creation of my time and I headed the social order conscientiously and honestly. Even when I was mistaken, it was an honest mistake. ... I was a Stalinist, a sincere Stalinist. I was a fanatic. I was ready to go through fire."

Thousands were sent to their deaths in labour camps in Stalinist Bulgaria. The New York-based Helsinki Watch human rights group is monitoring the trial.

## Soviet cabinet list upsets reformers

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday named 23 more members of his Cabinet of Ministers, the Soviet Union's new government structure, who now must be approved by parliament. The list appeared to confirm that the Soviet leadership's present emphasis is on consolidation rather than change, and further disappointed reformers.

Those already named to the Cabinet of Ministers include Valentin Pavlov, the prime minister, Boris Pugo, the interior minister, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the foreign minister, and the five deputy premiers appointed in January. Yesterday's list adds three more deputy premiers, including Vladimir Shcherbakov. He is the head of the state committee on labour and social questions and is regarded as relatively liberal. Vladimir Orlov, seen as supporting measured reform, replaces Mr Pavlov as finance minister.

Mr Shcherbakov's promotion appears to be an attempt

to reassure those campaigning to ensure that poorer citizens will be adequately compensated for planned price rises. Another reputed Gorbachev supporter and liberal, Nikolai Gubenko, the minister of culture, has added tourism to his brief. Dmitri Yazov, the minister of defence, and Vladimir Kryuchkov, the head of the KGB, retain their posts, despite months of speculation that the defence ministry would be reorganised.

There was an emphasis on heavy industry and management of natural resources in yesterday's list. During the interview last week in which Mr Pavlov condemned Western banks for helping to destabilise the Soviet economy, he also questioned the benefits of turning too sharply towards light industry.

The Cabinet of Ministers differs from the former Council of Ministers, in that members are appointed by and responsible to the president, rather than to parliament.

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# At last, a luxury car luxury but not

Settle into the electrically adjustable leather seats of the new Peugeot 605 SVE 24.

Listen to the double-sealed door shut with a deep, soundproofed thud. Run your fingers over the Californian walnut.

You'll feel the cares of the office slip away, and you're not even out of the car park.

Subjective terms like 'luxurious' inevitably spring to mind. However, Autocar and Motor magazine were able to be completely objective. They compared the 605's levels of refinement with those of the Jaguar

maintains your pre-set temperature.

In view of the fact that very few people will be able to resist the 605 SVE 24's sumptuous interior, we've fitted an ultrasonic alarm as standard. (For additional protection there's

## Luxury.

a security key pad which you can order as an optional extra. Before the engine can be started, the correct four-digit sequence has to be keyed in.)

More familiar will be the buttons for the electric sunroof, the electrically operated heated door mirrors, and the one touch driver's window.

Naturally, there's cruise control. And the stereo radio control? It's on one of the 4 steering column stalks, of course.

Several switches are duplicated on these stalks for fingertip control, though the 32 main controls have all been designed to fall readily to hand, and "...even with the wheel set fully back and down, the comprehensive and clear instrument panel is fully visible to a six foot-plus driver," Autocar and Motor.

Should you decide to test drive the new 605 SVE (and we sincerely hope you do) we suggest you take it through a variety of road and

driving conditions, because you'll find there's virtually no variation in the 605's ride. Peugeot's engineers have built in an automatic electronic ride control. This keeps your journey smooth

by constantly adjusting the settings of the shock absorbers between hard and soft, based on information received from sensors around the car. Each of the shocks contains a tiny electric motor that carries out these adjustments in just 150 thousandth of a second.

And while you're relaxing as you watch the world fly by, it's unlikely you'll hear it fly by. The 700 hours the 605 spent in our wind tunnel has given it the best drag coefficient in its class.

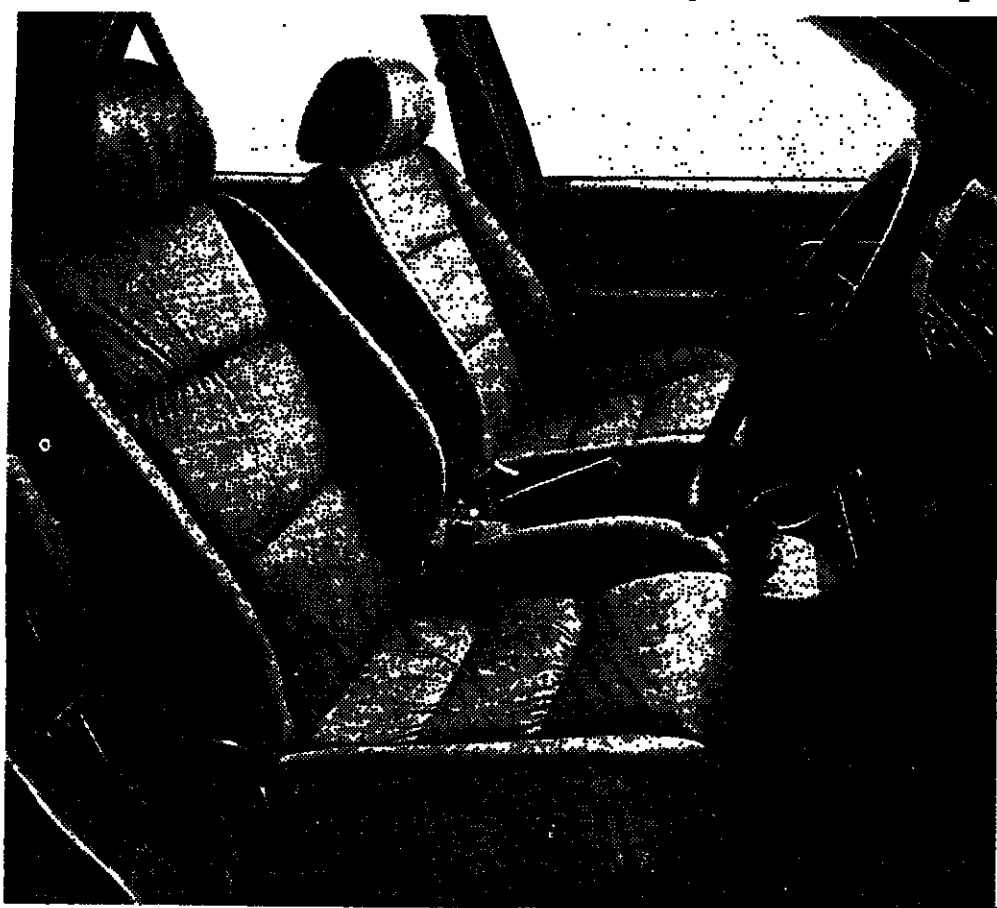
Just for good measure we've added 3 silencers to the exhaust and double sealing for any pipes or wires passing from the engine to the cabin.

We've even mounted the engine on its own hydraulically dampened suspension system.

All this has created the kind of refined interior environment that until now was only found in the world's most expensive luxury cars.

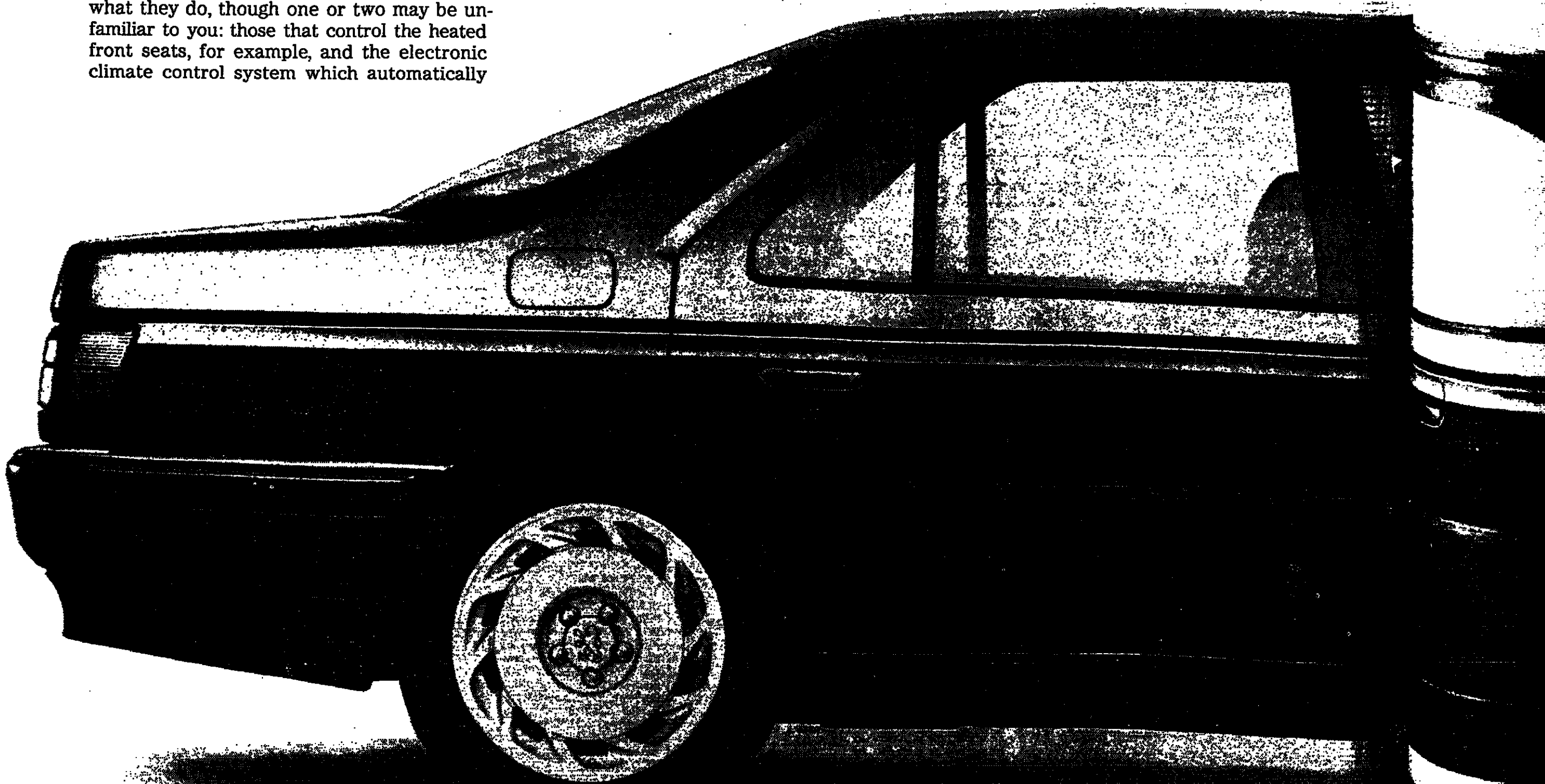
As far as the exterior environment is concerned, rest assured each 605 petrol model runs on unleaded, and each one, from the \$16,660 SLi to the \$26,520 SVE 24, is fitted with three-way catalytic converters that exceed forthcoming E.E.C. emission standards.

So everyone can relax as a 605 flies by, whether it be 2 litre, 3 litre, turbo diesel or 24 valve V6.



XJ6, and came to the conclusion that, "...in some respects it (the 605) even exceeds them."

Next, carefully examine the rows of controls. Our designers have made sure you don't have to be a 747 pilot to work out what they do, though one or two may be unfamiliar to you: those that control the heated front seats, for example, and the electronic climate control system which automatically





# Year that's long on not short on car

"A real driver's car that rides well, is quiet, roomy and well built is still the exception rather than the rule in this market sector. The 605 has all the credentials it needs," Autocar & Motor.

That was the kind of response we'd hoped for, not just because it shows the 605 in a good light, but because it touched on a truth we'd discovered when talking to drivers of executive cars.

Many of these drivers had found, to their cost, that manufacturers often give their cars a veneer of luxury features so they look terrific in the showroom, but once out on the open road they show all the driving characteristics of a Chesterfield sofa.

At Peugeot we pride ourselves on the performance and handling of all our cars. When we entered the 'hot hatchback' market we revolutionised it with the now legendary 205 GTI. We wouldn't have entered the luxury car market unless we were confident we could do the same.

For sheer power there can be no doubt that the 605 SVE 24 is a wolf in Savile Row clothing. In controlled tests it accelerated comfortably to 145mph, leaving its German cousins, the Audi V8 and the BMW 735i, in its wake.

But power alone is no mark of engineering sophistication. More important is how efficiently a car uses that power.

One of the problems with high performance engines is that with a fixed airflow volume they suffer from relatively poor gas inflow at low revs. In other words,

acceleration in fourth and fifth gears is impaired.

Peugeot's engineers have solved this problem with a variable inlet manifold, so that gas velocity, and consequently torque, is

## Car

increased at lower revs. The result is that with a 605 SVE 24 you don't have to change down to accelerate.

An engine's ability to produce power can also be affected by things like air temperature, fuel octane rating and even altitude. (A conventional engine actually performs less well in the Swiss Alps than in the Dutch Lowlands).

To overcome this, Peugeot's engineers have devised an engine management system that automati-

cally takes all these factors into consideration, and chooses the optimum spark timing and fuel injection timings from a choice of 11,664 permutations.

However, as any racing car designer will tell you, for a driver to be in complete control, chassis design is paramount.

Our racing car designers, whose 905 will be racing at Le Mans this year, have been invaluable in helping to engineer the unique 605 ride and handling system.

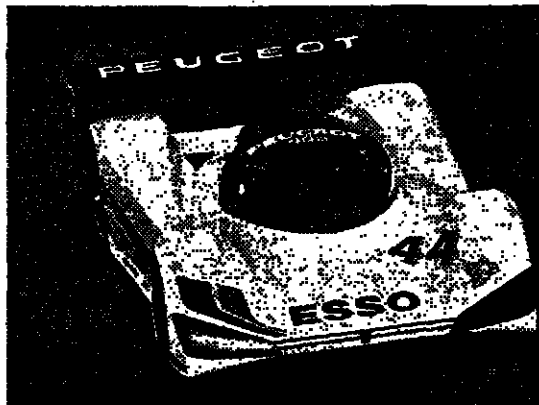
The double wishbone rear suspension is derived from the classic layout of competition

and sports cars, with computers being used to set the ideal geometry for keeping 'rubber on the road'.

A special lateral link has been added to the rear suspension which prevents the front from diving when braking sharply, and the rear from squatting when accelerating. Speed-variable power steering takes the effort out of negotiating the 605's 4.7 metres around the company car park, then gets progressively more taut and responsive as the car's speed increases.

Car & Driver said, "The Peugeot handles superbly, ranking among the very best large front-drive automobiles. Indeed the 605 has such good balance and grip that the uninformed might not be able to decide if the front or rear wheels are doing the driving," and who are we to disagree.

Needless to say, the high performance 605 comes complete with a high performance



braking system. ABS and all-round servo-assisted brakes are fitted as standard across the range.

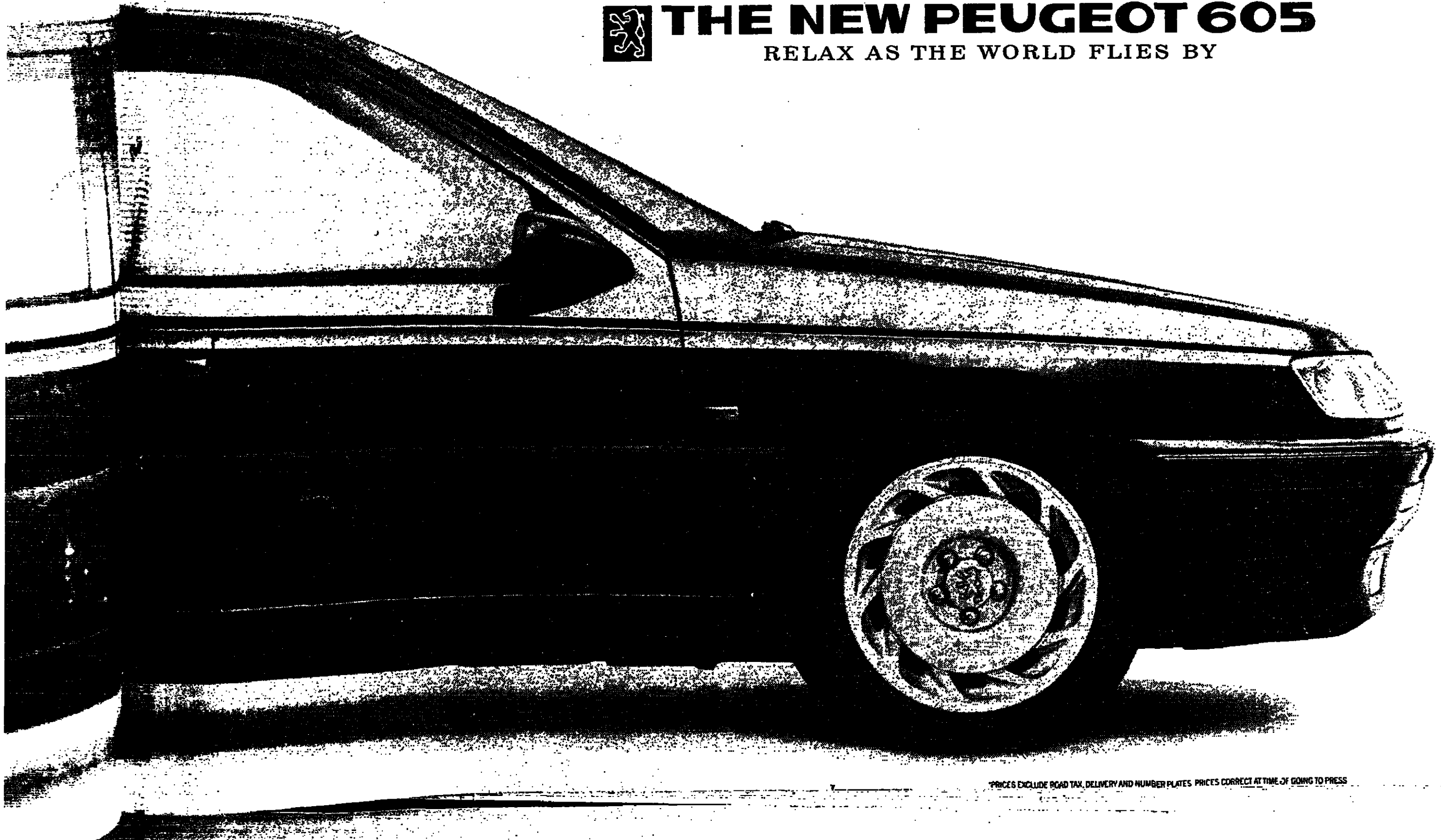
If you'd like to know more about how the 605 flies by, ask your secretary to call 0800-678800 for a free Driver Demonstration VHS tape.

If you'd like to fly by in any one of the eleven 605s, telephone your local Peugeot dealer.

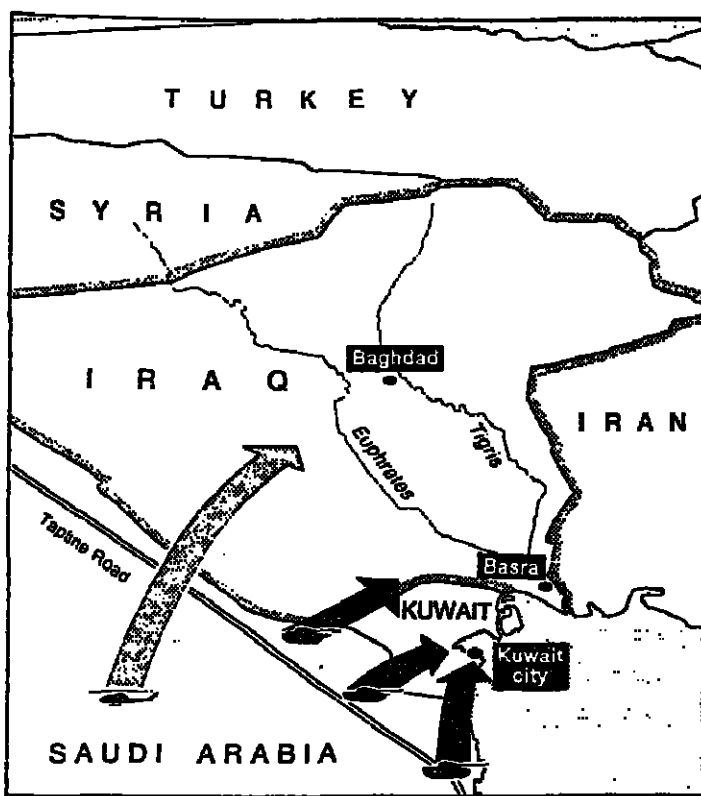


## THE NEW PEUGEOT 605

RELAX AS THE WORLD FLIES BY







The advancing allies may yet meet fierce Iraqi resistance

# How far should the allies go?

The coalition cannot occupy Iraq, argues Michael Armitage

There is no doubt that the start of the ground war has gone well, though the troops have not yet encountered the main enemy resistance. Iraqi troops dug in along the southern border of Kuwait seem to be surrendering in large numbers, but these army elements are known to be less than staunch, even in defence. Any success they hoped to achieve in repelling the allied advance would have relied on comprehensive fortifications, which have been breached, and on massed covering fire from supporting artillery units, the potential of which has been crippled by unremitting air attack.

We are likely to see many more surrenders by Iraqi units in the next few days. After this initial phase, however, the coalition forces will meet more heavily armed, better equipped, more mobile and perhaps more determined Iraqi forces from formations held in reserve in central Kuwait, and further north, the Republican Guard.

No one knows how these units will perform. So far they have mainly been dispersed for survival across open terrain, and often dug in for protection against the constant air bombardment. They seem to have lost about a third of their armour and other vehicles; their communications must have been severely disrupted, and, perhaps even more significant, their morale must have been seriously undermined by the storm of bombs and missiles. But some will remain defiant and ready for combat.

So we are likely to see some tough resistance from the best led and most devoted units in Saddam's army, while many other units melt away. What cannot be foreseen is the likely proportion of the one to the other, but a total collapse is not inconceivable.

Would that mean the end of the war? Not unless Saddam declares himself defeated, which is a most remote possibility. Saddam is

known to admire the late President Nasser, who was humiliated at the hands of the Anglo-French force in the Suez campaign, and by the Israelis in 1967, yet survived to be hailed the heroic victim of Western and Zionist conspiracies. Only three years ago, Saddam successfully portrayed as a victory the stalemate of an eight-year war with Iran, with its hundreds of thousands of dead.

A more likely outcome is continuing rhetoric from Saddam's bunker, accompanied by a retreat on Baghdad or Basra by the remnants of the Iraqi army in Kuwait. Saddam will do everything he can to avoid a clear-cut end to the war, knowing that the cohesion of the alliance against him cannot survive a march on Baghdad. The allies, for their part, will pursue the retreating Iraqi ground forces by continuing the air attacks against them.

There will probably be a

mopping-up operation against troops holding out in parts of Kuwait City, and there will be more serious work to be done against Basra. This town is heavily fortified and offers the best haven for Iraqi troops who escape the manoeuvring coalition forces. But the allies are likely to besiege Basra, and it cannot hold out for long.

Even afterwards it will be necessary to continue the air bombardment of Iraq, as Iraqi efforts to repair their infrastructure must be matched by allied efforts to keep it out of action. Military targets so far untouched by air attack, such as the still considerable Iraqi armies on the borders of Turkey and Iran, could also be targeted in a context of attrition. The allies would eventually wear down all resistance, civil and military. A more difficult contest may be that between those in the alliance determined to mop up and voices in the United

Nations pressing for a ceasefire and for compromise.

Occupation of all of Iraq is out of the question, so it may indeed come to a compromise. And, as temperatures rise to the intolerable heat of summer, any but modest coalition forces in the south of Iraq will be unwelcome.

We may even see an end to the war without any clear-cut declarations of victory or defeat. This would be a less satisfactory outcome than the overthrow of Saddam himself, either in a coup d'état by those close to him, or in a coup de main by an external agency. But the coalition may have to settle for less than that — backed by the most stringent sanctions and accompanied by the continuing threat of military action, particularly from the air, to be invoked if Saddam Hussein shows any sign of trying to resurrect his armed forces.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Armitage is a former commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies, London.

Clifford Longley

## Rehabilitation not control

British prisons are horrible, too horrible for a civilised society to tolerate. That is the central proposition of the report published yesterday by Lord Justice Woolf and Judge Stephen Tummie into the Strangeways prison disturbances. It is brutally obvious, but it needed saying. Only when public opinion turns away from a visceral and vengeful attitude to prisons and prisoners and recognises the harm to society that that approach causes will anything be done.

The investigation by two judges into one prison riot, albeit the most serious for more than a decade, gradually turned into a little short of a royal commission into all aspects of the service. Even with full royal commission treatment, the result could hardly have been better. All that is needed to turn it into a watershed in penal policy is a positive response from the Home Secretary, Kenneth Baker. This he began to supply in the Commons yesterday.

He plans a white paper on future prison policy, the first for a generation, and regards the Woolf-Tummie enquiry as direct input into that. Above all, he has accepted the regular criticism of Judge Tummie, his chief inspector of prisons, that the statutory punishment inflicted by imprisonment is the loss of liberty it entails, and that degradation of the prisoner is not part of the penalty.

The present degradation of prisoners is best illustrated by the disgusting practice of slopping out. Judge Tummie has repeatedly castigated the prison service for hanging on to this custom. Abolition of slopping out is an expensive reform to implement, but the real reason slopping out has been retained for so long is that it epitomises the nothing-is-too-bad-for-them public attitude to prisoners. Irrespective of whether the sanction laid down by law, the public regards slopping out as an integral part of the penalty. Mr Baker has committed himself to act faster even than the two judges demanded to end the practice.

The opposite approach, urged by Lord Justice Woolf and Judge Tummie, is epitomised by their concept of a programme of treat-

ment for each prisoner, drawn up at the start of sentence, and presented to the prisoner as a compact or contract with which he is invited to co-operate. This would at last begin to treat the prisoner as a human being who can be helped to take some responsibility for his own destiny. It would recognise that it is not denying or suppressing his humanity that gives some chance of reform, but enhancing it.

A prisoner will be allowed and expected to participate in his custodial treatment. The very idea of a prisoner as a participant is almost revolutionary in the British prison system. It switches the emphasis from control to rehabilitation. The climate of repression implied by the old emphasis on control was at the heart of the Strangeways disturbances.

The prison population is now falling at last, and recent sentencing reforms are expected to maintain that tendency. This will relieve the overcrowding which, along with slopping out, is the chief factor in making prison life in Britain so much more a process of breaking than of mending. But the spirit of the Woolf-Tummie report goes much deeper than this. It questions the traditional relationship between prisoner and officer, as symbolised by the military-style uniform they wear. While not going so far as to recommend the prison staff should wear civilian clothes, largely because of resistance by the Prison Officers' Association, the report calls for a redesigned uniform deliberately non-military in impression.

This touches on a fundamental part of the malaise of the prison service that neither the two judges nor even a touch-minded Conservative Home Secretary have yet had the courage to deal with: the ethos of the prison officer. For the officers have yet to be converted from control to rehabilitation. They share some of the public's deepest and worst prejudices towards prisoners. Only when prison officers are fully convinced that the purpose of a prison is not the degradation of offenders but their reclamation for humanity will our prisons become worthy of a civilised society.

# We were all soldiers, then

Bernard Levin recalls the resolution of civilians in the second world war and marvels at today's faint hearts

Among all the millions of words of comment so far spent on the Gulf war, and the thousands on the Victoria station bomb, I have read none which suggests to me that the authors are my age, let alone older. Some of them must be, of course, but their silence seems to me significant. Let me break this silence today.

I lived through the second world war, beginning as a child and ending as a youth. Most of the time I was at my school in Sussex, where the greatest danger was that the tuck-shop might run out of produce. On one occasion a very small jetted bomb fell just within the school's boundaries, damaging nothing but the grass, and on another a Spitfire with engine-trouble made an emergency landing on the cricket-field; the two events were cheered with impartially equal fervour.

My family lived in Bedford, where I spent the holidays. The air-raid sirens sounded a dozen times a night; there were frequent bombing raids, but the city was plainly not on the enemy agenda for destruction. Mere gas-jumped schoolboy though I was, I followed the war news closely; we all had maps with coloured pins to record the ebb and flow of battle. The newspapers and broadcasters naturally rejoiced in allied successes, and put the best face possible on allied reverses; but the greatest rejoicing, at least before the tide of war began to turn and victory was seen as certain, was in the bombing of Germany.

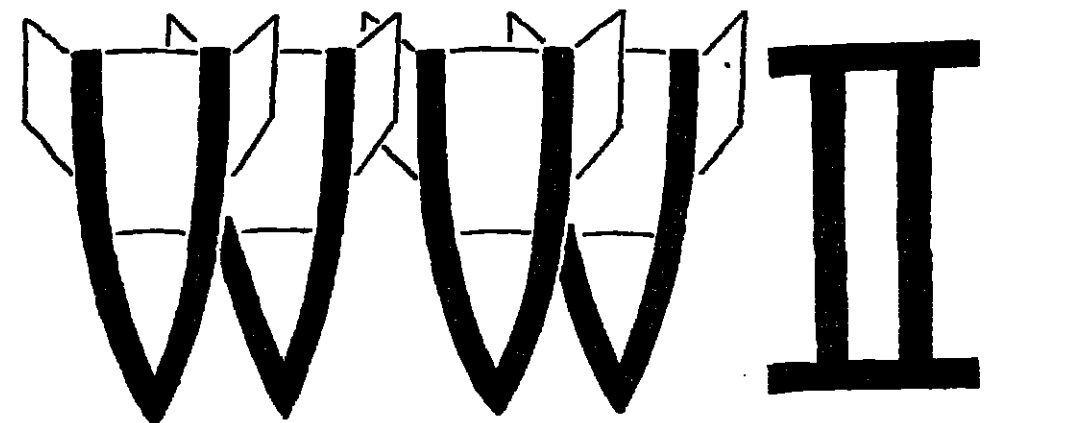
I offer no opinion on the still-veiled argument over the value of the second world war bombing offensive, or the role of "Bomber Harris. This, however, I can say: on neither side in the second world war was there any question of the *rightness* (as opposed to the *usefulness*) of the bombing of civilian targets. Neither the Luftwaffe nor the Royal Air Force gave any thought at all to such a question: neither made any distinction (other than strategic ones), between a raid on a munitions factory and a raid on a block of flats. To speak bluntly, the policy — on both sides, I repeat — was to destroy as many dwell-

ings in as many cities as possible, together with, most emphatically, the human beings in them.

My purpose, however, is not to make my younger readers' flesh creep. It is twofold: to make clear that practically nobody thought the policy was in any way wrong, and to emphasise that even while the night's death and debris were smoking in the ruined streets, the people were going about their normal purposes. When the employees of a bombed shop arrived for work, they first hung out a banner reading "Business as Usual", even before they swept up the broken glass. I am not exaggerating when I say that if people had then found all the main-line railway stations shut because a bomb had hit one of them, their unanimous conclusion would have been that some official had gone mad.

The truth is that there was no distinction between civilians and soldiers; on both sides such a separation would have been quite incomprehensible. "Total war", as it was called, was truly total, and killing hundreds of thousands of civilians could be, and was, easily accommodated under that heading. I am not sure, but I think that even that great man George Bernard Shaw, who consistently pleaded for a mitigation of the war-time horrors and, later, a negotiated peace, did not denounce the policy.

It must be understood, though, that the indiscriminate killing of civilians, again on both sides, was not done for the pleasure of it, nor even for revenge. It had a purpose, and the purpose was the destruction of morale. Whether it worked, on either side or both, I shall not discuss. But that there is something called morale, which can be damaged or destroyed, is undoubtedly true; what everybody has now forgotten is that in the second world war, as in most wars in history, the attack on morale had a very high priority. The reason it has been forgotten can be seen from the date; no war has threatened the British Isles for almost half a century, and in that time the very idea of war has faded from British minds.



Certainly, the world has not weaned of fighting the Vietnam war is embedded for ever in American hearts. We did not participate directly in that, but British troops fought in the Korean War, at Suez and the Falklands. In none of those conflicts, however, did the war impose closely on the general population here; not even in the Korean War, in which, after all, there were many families waiting in fear for the official telegram.

It is surely this which explains the reaction to the attacks (even though these were neither knowing nor deliberate) on "civilian" areas in the Gulf war, as well as the astonishing willingness of BR to discommode millions of travellers. Only we who lived through the second world war have remembered the terrible truth that in war we are all, down to the youngest baby, soldiers; those too young to remember the war at all can hardly be criticised for not understanding the terrible truth. But that does not mean it is untrue. (It can be argued that the

people of Iraq are not responsible for Saddam Hussein, and some would say that they are as much his victims as the Kuwaitis and for that matter the dead on the allied side. Something of the sort could have been said about Hitler with almost as much truth, but the point of any offensive on morale is that it cannot, and does not, distinguish between one kind of civilian soldier and another.)

All wars turn into history, while those who live through them are indelibly marked on their souls or bodies or both. Those who have first-hand memories of the second world war must be the most amazed at the remarkable storm over the bombs which went astray, and at the decision to stop London altogether in the rush-hour. More amazing yet is that in the Gulf war an attack on morale has apparently not even been contemplated, let alone launched, while the Victoria terrorists have been presented with a colossal success by doing no more than murdering one person and seriously injuring half a dozen others.

Like anyone with feelings, I deplore the loss of life in this war; I deplore also, and more strongly, the carnage wrought by the few bombs that went (if they did) to the wrong targets. And no one can fail to be moved by the thought of Adam Corner, fatherless after the Victoria station murders had done their work. But I lived through years in which, every night, the toll of death from bombs ran into hundreds, yet when morning came the living went on with their lives.

I am not advocating a rain of nuclear missiles on Baghdad, or urging my readers not to report unattended and sinister parcels in public places. I am pleading only for a sense of proportion, basing the proportion in question on the measurements of the second world war. By those, the allies are pursuing the Gulf war with a restraint that is as squeamish as it is commendable, and the interjections of the IRA gangsters should be treated, in the words of the late George Bernard Shaw, with total ignorance.

## ...and moreover ALAN COREN

Heated by last Friday's weather of the early-morning tennis-game which — such is my canines in dietary negotiation — buys me the right to a lunchtime scotch. I decided instead to do something I had not done since I had done it in short trousers, a scuff-shod crocodile, and abject misery. I decided to go for a nice bracing swim in a public pool.

Accordingly, I turned up at Swiss Cottage, that site for eyesores taken full advantage of by Sir Basil Spence's famous leisure centre — an off-white blockhouse in the engaging post-Magnum style, encrusted with a job lot of neo-Aztec carvings generously donated, after a short, fierce struggle, by local ratepayers — bought a ticket to one of its three indoor swimming pools, and went inside.

It was like Proust sinking his canine into a moist macaroon, a lousy description, admittedly, of a public baths except insofar as with that first whiff of chlorine, that first glance at the trembling ripples of light which water makes on tiles, that first faint reverberation of the hollow echoes which bark only in swimming pools, I was back 40 years, in that wet shivering line of bony white humunculi, milk-teeth chattering and gooseflesh bubbling like tripe, waiting for some truck-suited sadist to boot us into the deep end for the good of our souls.

When I returned from the changing cubicle, the pool was empty.

There was, however, one man looking at. About 70, pear-shaped, with a belly of delicately veined white Ferrara marble, his hands behind his back, and a bald pink skull from which two small eyes were watching the water, very closely.

"See that?" he cried, suddenly, not looking up.

"What?" I said.

"That ripple thing, going up the pool?" I looked. A curious little wave, the full width of the pool, was running quickly up its length. "That'll be the 8.05," said the pear-shaped man.

"I'm sorry?"

"They built this right over the Bakerloo Line. When a tube pulls out of Swiss Cottage, you can see the vibration belting along the surface. It's all to do with..." he trailed off. "I'm not a scientist," he said.

"Are you going in?" I enquired.

"Oh, no," he said, looking at me for the first time. "I never go in here."

I walked to the springboard, wondering where it was that he did go in. When I came up gasping, numb from the follicles down, I found him yelling even more excitedly than before. "New wave's just passed you!" he shrieked. "Go on!"

I struck out desperately. I must be a natural subordinate.

"Too late!" cried the old man, highly delighted. "She'll be in St John's Wood before you've done a length."

It's a bizarre sensation, racing a tube-train down a swimming pool: here is the swimmer, naked

man equipped only with his own feeblest splash across London, in frantic pursuit of a cylindrical of suited office-staff reading the newspaper 50ft down. I fetched up against the shallow end, with a lifetime of dissipation knocking at my ribs.

"It beat me," I croaked.

"Course it did!" shouted the old bloke. "Course it did! It always does. I never seen nobody beat it."

You don't ask a man whether he comes to a swimming pool at dawn every day just to watch fools racing ripples, mainly because you wouldn't know what to do with the answer if you had it. I dragged myself out and, as I did so, a wiry middle-aged woman in a thick widdle bathing-suit crept to the edge of the deep end, and slid in noiselessly.

"She used to be the Southern Counties Backstroke Champion," the audience confided as I towelled, "and even she can't beat it. It's accelerating as it leaves the station, see? It's probably doing 20 miles an hour, time it gets up the deep end."

I dressed, and left. On the street, an icy wind cut across my soaking scalp, bringing a promise of early pneumonia and I hurried to my car, but not so quickly that I failed to catch sight of the opposition. At Swiss Cottage station muffled men in a long line were filing into the booking hall, totally unaware that they were about to take on the former Southern Counties Backstroke Champion.

## Top brass briefings

A loof from criticisms of the royal family's role during the Gulf war, the Queen has nonetheless discreetly requested a series of in-depth briefings with military top brass, which go far beyond the requirements of her constitutional position and ensure that she knows as much about the progress of the land battle in Kuwait as any of her elected government ministers.

On Thursday she will discuss the allied strategy with Sir David Craig, chief of the defence staff. Last night she met Tom King, the defence secretary, at Buckingham Palace for a briefing, and this evening at her weekly audience with John Major she will ask for a further comprehensive update.

Other senior defence ministry officials have also been to the palace for an audience, and since the start of the conflict, Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, has maintained daily contact with the office of Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and with Sir Charles Powell, the prime minister's private secretary.

The Queen is clearly taking a personal interest in the details of the campaign. "She is being kept fully informed, not because of the constitutional proprieties but because she genuinely wants to be," says Lord Dacre.

Without a written constitution, the precise nature of the sovereign's role remains a matter of some debate but Dr Jonathan Clark, of All Souls, Oxford, says: "Her close interest will not be reflected in any role in the public arena or as a warrior queen, but I am certain that she offers advice to the prime minister. And I am equally sure he listens."



One hundred years ago this week, two Ohio newspaper editors settled a difference of opinion with a shoot-out in a public street. While only one of the editors was hit, three bystanders were also shot. The *Herald Tribune* at the time impartially observed: "The laws of Ohio ought not to allow a man to take charge of a newspaper unless he can shoot straight enough to hit his opponent and avoid hitting innocent persons."

## A far pavilion

Peter Palumbo, the Arts Council chairman, has backed proposals to bring Britain's multi-million pound Expo 92 pavilion back from Seville in 1993.

The trade and industry department, organisers of the national presence at the trade fair, thought the glass and steel building, as big as Harrods, would remain permanently on site after the event.

But even before its completion, plans are being made to dismantle and repatriate it as a shining example of modern British architecture. "No decision has been reached," says Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners, designers of the structure. "The idea has been discussed. It would be wonderful if the building found a permanent home in this country."

Despite its size, the designers see no insurmountable technical problems in moving the building. "The components could easily be packed up and transported," say the architects. "We have disassembled and moved a building before."

## Accusers accused

A highly critical reassessment of the composer Benjamin Britten, which will be screened tonight on Channel 4, has incurred the wrath of Malcolm Williamson, the Master of the Queen's Music and a friend of Britten. Williamson says he agreed to record a contribution to the programme *J'accuse*, presented by opera critic Tom Sutcliffe, only if



allowed the right of veto over his own words. He has not seen the programme and fears that his remarks may have been edited to support the conclusion that Britten failed to fulfill his potential. "I know that Tom Sutcliffe is trying to damage Britten's reputation, and I would not have taken part if I knew that my remarks were to be chopped up and edited," he says.

"I have no power to stop it, but I feel let down."

Producer Andy Forrester says that Williamson was not given any veto over the content of the programme, but there may have been some misunderstanding. "We had no objection to him seeing the programme in advance, but the schedule was very tight," he says. "I shall be getting in touch with him to explain things."

## Opposition galled

The family of Sandy Gall, the ITN journalist, is celebrating his exclusive report from partly liberated Kuwait. Stuart Purvis, his editor, telephoned Gall's wife, Eleanor, at their converted Kent coast house on Sunday to tell her that her husband was the first television journalist to witness the land battle for Kuwait.

Gall, 63, who retired last year from his post alongside Sir Alastair Burnet on *News at Ten*, had telephoned home on Friday but merely said he was moving north.

Alas, his wife missed Gall's moment of history. While he was on the air, she was at Gatwick airport delivering a consignment of artificial limbs for shipment to Afghanistan, where the couple runs a charity.

When Red Adair starts tackling the blazing Kuwaiti oil wells, the military should avoid giving him daft orders. While the veteran troubleshooter was "killing" a fire at an American well some years ago, an oil company official made the mistake of insisting that Adair observe the rule that plastic safety hats must be worn at all times. "I took this dude down as close to the fire as he could stand it and stood there with him," says Adair. "I see your point," the official was forced to admit, as his hat started to melt and run down around his ears.





## NO SECRET JUSTICE

The Birmingham Six are soon to follow the Guildford Four into freedom. The two cases, and the Guildford-related case of the Maguire Seven, have done great damage to the reputation of British justice. The Court of Appeal's past handling of these cases is sufficient reason for a thorough revision of the procedures for criminal appeals. The necessity for this is increasingly accepted by many of those, in government as well as in the judiciary, responsible for the administration of justice.

One common criticism of the Court of Appeal, however, is unfounded: that it is not always necessary for the judges to hear an appeal, and the decision in favour of an acquittal should sometimes be made by ministers, the police or the Director of Public Prosecutions. But the independence of the judiciary from police or government, however incompetently it may exercise its independence, must be absolute.

Lord Justice Lloyd reiterated the point yesterday, saying: "It is not enough for us to give our secret blessing to a view expressed by the Crown Prosecution Service." He appeared to be referring to the manner in which the court dealt with the Guildford Four's appeal in 1989. The appeal judges then were simply told by counsel for the DPP that the Crown no longer sought to maintain the convictions. The appeal was allowed without further ado and the four walked free.

Senior judges have since reflected that this had undermined the Court of Appeal. They have indicated - as yesterday - that they will not take the word of the DPP again, but will insist on a proper explanation of such a volte face, perhaps even a full appeal hearing. One consequence of the brisk dismissal of the Guildford Four case was that it failed to dispel an impression, at least among those inclined to believe it, that the Guildford Four were guilty but escaped on a technicality. That is why the Birmingham Six have

insisted on a full hearing. The issue here is not the dignity of the judges concerned - Lord Justice Lloyd should beware of giving that impression - but the administration of justice. The appeal court was told yesterday that the DPP, Sir Allan Green, QC, could no longer rely on police evidence in the case, having already decided not to rely on scientific evidence. In other words, the Crown's original case against the Six had collapsed. Had the judges merely accepted that submission and acquitted the Six forthwith, some suspicion against them might still linger.

The original trial judge, Mr Justice (now Lord) Bridge, and the Court of Appeal in 1987, had gone out of their way to stress how "overwhelming" was the case against the Birmingham Six. That there is now no apparent case against them demands public investigation. If the 1975 trial and the 1987 appeal were both hoodwinked, then behind the Birmingham Six prosecution appears to have been a criminal conspiracy to pervert justice on an unprecedented scale. Indeed, Mr Justice Bridge admitted that this was the implication of the defence case at the trial 16 years ago. A brief hearing followed by acquittal on the say-so of the DPP will leave all that covered up.

The police and prosecution service must not be allowed to sweep their mistakes under the carpet merely by presenting no case on appeal. The judges should now insist on a full hearing and see that appellants are free when a successful appeal has become a moral certainty. Their appetite for justice would have seemed the more ravenous yesterday had they insisted on the immediate release of the Birmingham Six. The Six, for reasons of principle of their own, have not applied for bail. That is a technicality to be overcome, not a reason for holding them further. The Home Secretary, Kenneth Baker, should use his statutory powers to put right that injustice today.

## OUT OF THE BEAR'S EMBRACE

Forget the Gulf for a minute. This week, for the first time in 36 years, the nations of Eastern Europe won back the essence of sovereignty, the freedom to organise their own defence. Their foreign and defence ministers, meeting their Soviet counterparts by the Danube yesterday to commit the Warsaw Pact's military alliance to the dustbin, were understandably elated. This alliance, imposed by Soviet power, went into action only twice, in 1956 and 1968 - each time against one of its own members.

The dissolution of the pact's military records on April 1 will, the Soviet Union has reluctantly agreed, be followed by the dismantling of its remaining political structures. To East Europeans (and, perhaps ominously, to hardline Soviet generals) the pact's abolition is the ultimate symbol of the waning of Soviet imperialism. It is the end of the collective security arrangements in Europe which, through the involuntary Warsaw Pact and the voluntary NATO alliance, maintained the cold war balance of power.

Whether it heralds a new era of stability in eastern and central Europe remains to be seen. Fears that political reforms in the Soviet Union could be reversed explain why the East Europeans are so bent on the swift withdrawal of Soviet troops. Conscious of the danger of a security vacuum, they are actively groping for new regional security arrangements to protect them from any backlash in the Soviet Union and to lessen the risks of disputes between each other over borders or ethnic unrest.

Despite evidence that the Soviet Union is cheating on arms control agreements in Europe, the most immediate peril is not that the Kremlin will attempt forcibly to reimpose its hegemony but that disputes within and between Soviet republics could spill over into Eastern Europe. Three million Romanians, a million Poles and 700,000 Hungarians live within Soviet borders. None of their home countries, struggling to escape the ruins of communism, would

welcome large flows of refugees. Instability could spread, making the region once again a buffer zone in which East and West compete for influence.

Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia took the first steps towards military co-operation earlier this month. That might help contain nationalism, ethnic tensions and political extremism at home. But none of these countries can expect that any East European alliance would be any match for the Soviet Union. They seek association with the West. Czechoslovakia's foreign minister, Jiri Dienstbier, referred yesterday to the need to build new security structures on "existing pillars", adding pointedly that the only functioning pillar was NATO. All Eastern European governments, Romania excepted, now seek observer status at the North Atlantic Assembly, NATO's parliamentary group.

Western governments have greeted such overtures with extreme coolness. They counsel the East Europeans not to alarm Soviet generals by rushing into the arms of the West: far wiser, they say, to maintain a constructive dialogue with the Kremlin. Such reasoning is convenient. The West prefers NATO as it is and is understandably wary of being drawn into keeping any sort of peace within Eastern Europe, let alone into extending NATO's security guarantees east to the Soviet border. There is already a danger of a new iron curtain falling along that delicate frontier, without Western armour to render it even more sensitive.

Yet stability in Eastern Europe is in the West's interest. Granting the new East European democracies observer status at the North Atlantic Assembly would not amount to a guarantee, but it would be better than a cold shoulder. The East Europeans have won their independence at some risk. They are passing through a period of great insecurity. Support, encouragement and contact costs nothing. It should be offered.

## BORN AGAIN ON THE BOX

So the American television evangelists have arrived in Britain. The only surprise is that they have taken so long about it. When the craze was at its peak in 1980, Jerry Falwell, the senatorial evangelist whose gospel shows were then more popular than *Dallas*, told the novelist Martin Amis: "I want global influence. We can't buy more airtime in America, no way. But we'll start buying it worldwide. South America, Europe, Asia..." A decade and several spectacular scandals involving TV evangelists later, Morris Cerullo World Evangelism Inc. - which incorporates the network that once belonged to the disgraced evangelist Jim Bakker - will soon have a potential British audience of 500,000.

Morris Cerullo has so far evaded the wrath of the television regulating authorities with his broadcasts on local cable television. He hopes to reach a larger audience by buying time on a satellite channel, Super Channel, which claims 40 million viewers in Europe. His style seems less vulgar than that of the Swaggars and Bakkers. He does not ask for money. His politics are well to the left of the Moral Majority. His forte is faith-healing. In common with many TV evangelists, Mr Cerullo seems to believe that the end of the world is nigh.

The British response is likely to be phlegmatic. There is certainly a market here for hard-sellers of Christianity. The Jehovah's Witness at the front door is almost as familiar as the postman. Billy Graham still saves souls in Britain. A correspondence on this page recently illuminated the fears of the Jewish community about Christian proselytising in their midst. Even the Church of

England is about to see a moderate member of its evangelical wing, Dr George Carey, ascend the throne of St Augustine. In Britain "evangelism", in its original sense, is not exclusively identified with the Protestant churches, as is the word *evangelisch* in the heartlands of Luther and Calvin. British Roman Catholics are quite at home with bible-bashing, and nobody draws bigger crowds than the Pope.

The British have so far preferred to keep the fiercer evangelists out of their sitting rooms. But no longer, it seems. The British churches may have to pick up Mr Cerullo's gauntlet. Consider the Archbishop of York's *Thought for the Day* yesterday. In a calm, almost soporific, voice Dr John Habgood asked his audience: "Just sit quiet for a moment and let the reality of this war sink in and try to feel in yourself some of the suffering it involves and the resources of goodness and love which are going to be needed to overcome it... You may not call it prayer, but God does."

The archbishop's advice may have offered some comfort to the intellectually perplexed. But as a call to the triumph of prayer it left scope for amplification by the new evangelists. The Gulf war has boosted the ratings of religious programmes on television and radio. There is a keen desire for spiritual nourishment. Television preachers may be an unattractive outgrowth of New World spirituality. If, though, the competition encourages the clergy of the Old World to convey a clearer message, the televangelists could do more good than harm.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Telephone 071-782 5000

### Concern over treatment of PoWs

From Dr R. H. Nicholson

Sir, Kevin Grant (letter, February 25) expresses concern over enforced repatriation of Iraqi prisoners of war by the Allies after hostilities. He hopes that the Geneva accords will allow Iraqis to escape such treatment. Of more immediate concern is the need for the Allies to deal with wounded prisoners according to the Geneva Conventions.

Article 12 of the First Convention states that the wounded and sick... shall be treated humanely and cared for by the Parties to the conflict in whose power they may be, without any adverse distinction founded on sex, race, nationality, religion, political opinions, or any other similar criteria... Only urgent medical reasons will authorise priority in the order of treatment to be administered.

Article 10 of the first additional Geneva Protocol of 1977, signed but not ratified by the United States and the United Kingdom, emphasises the non-discrimination requirement: "In all circumstances they (the wounded and sick) shall be treated humanely and shall receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required by their condition. There shall be no distinction among them founded on

any grounds other than medical ones."

The Allies propose to evacuate as many as possible of their wounded to Europe and the United States for definitive treatment. I know of no suggestion that wounded Iraqi prisoners will be cared for in the same way. How do the Allies propose to fulfil their duty under international humanitarian law to provide the same standard of care to Iraqi prisoners as to their own wounded?

Yours faithfully,  
R. H. NICHOLSON,  
Editor, Bulletin of Medical Ethics,  
13-14 Great Station Street, EC1,  
February 25.

From Mrs Timothy Rathbone

Sir, Can it really be the case that the Iraqi regime is not allowing the International Red Cross (leading article, February 21) or the Red Crescent access to the prisoners of war in their hands - in stark contrast to the behaviour of the coalition countries - and why do we so seldom hear or read of this in the news?

Yours truly,  
SUSAN RATHBONE,  
Church Lane House,  
Ripe, Nr Lewes, Sussex.  
February 21.

### The work of Freud

From Mrs Jeannie Cohen

Sir, Every five years or so, a so-called scientific investigation takes place which sets out to prove that there is no scientific evidence whatsoever for Freud's claims (report, February 19). These findings purport to prove that all psychic processes, including the unconscious, are no more than the product of the activities of the nervous system; therefore the argument goes, all we need are more and better drugs.

These claims seem to ignore the mass of recent evidence showing the acute shortcomings of drugs in the treatment of psychoneurosis and psychosis. The question at the centre of these controversies is whether or not there are unconscious psychological processes which can be held responsible for psychoneurotic and psychiatric symptoms. And whatever the problems of psychoanalysis on the therapeutic level, there is certainly

sufficient evidence to prove the existence of the unconscious, both in ordinary people and in those suffering from neurotic symptoms.

Indeed, there is increasing ground for thinking that unconscious mental processes also play a large role in a wide range of somatic disturbances. I share the view, however, that the techniques and methods of psychoanalysis are not as efficient as they ought to be, and that some of their theoretical statements leave much to be desired.

The challenge before us, then, is not so much to give up the gains in understanding acquired by psychoanalysis as to make its treatment methods more suitable for the many people who desperately need psychological treatment, but who at the moment have to rely on drugs, with all the problems and disadvantages of that therapeutic method.

Yours sincerely,  
JEANNIE COHEN,  
Open Card Press,  
51 Achilles Road, NW6,  
February 20.

### Erasing the tone

From Mr Andrew Neill

Sir, Your report (February 13) that Sir William Glock, when controller of music at the BBC, promoted the music of atonal composers in preference to contemporaries such as Robert Simpson and Sir Andrzej Panufnik, who composed tonally, raises a number of questions.

Sir William was of course neither right nor wrong. If he did pursue a policy of this type then he was also responsible for stimulating the musical life of this country in a way few others have done since the war. It was the "spin-offs" from this supposed policy which surely had the most wide-ranging effect.

It is to Sir William's credit that his audience never faded away. Listeners may not have understood what he was hearing, but by being in no position to ignore such music at the Proms and over the air I am sure we were persuaded to listen to

or take refuge in the music of other contemporaries, such as Robert Simpson. We have benefited as a result.

Where the policy appeared to be wrong was in the impression it gave that "modern" tonal composers were not appreciated by the musical establishment. I remember taking Sir William to task over the poor treatment given to the music of Vaughan Williams in the Prom season of his centenary year (1972) and I am sure that if the musical establishment of the BBC had been more catholic in its taste the battle to rehabilitate the reputation of Sir Edward Elgar in the 1950s and 1960s would not have been so difficult.

Yours sincerely,  
ANDREW NEILL (Vice-Chairman,  
The Elgar Society),  
17 Earsfield Road,  
Wandsworth Common, SW18,  
February 18.

### Cost of power

From the Director General of the Chemical Industries Association

Sir, Your leading article (February 19) on the price increases being sought by the regional electricity companies was perceptive: the current mechanisms provide the electricity companies with a comfortable cushion that their customers in other industries can only envy.

The increases of up to 13 per cent would apply to domestic customers and smaller industrial users, but large industrial users face increases of up to 25 per cent.

By April 1991, large users of electricity in Great Britain could have suffered a 40 per cent increase in prices since 1987; over the same period comparable prices are down 2 per cent in Germany, up 5 per cent in France and up 1 per cent in The Netherlands.

The UK chemical industry is a world leader with a £2 billion contribution to the balance of payments. With management and workpeople are fighting to preserve crucial competitive margins, we should not have to suffer such handicaps.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN C. L. COX,  
Director General,  
Chemical Industries Association,  
Kings Buildings,  
South Square, SW1,  
February 21.

### Right to know

From Dr Brenning James

Sir, A patient has a right to know (letter, February 16), but that is not to say that he must be told what he does not wish to know.

When the news is bad, patients are often not pressing with their enquiries, and the doctor respects this reluctance, putting the facts to a near relative. When patients have bad news forced upon them the results can be disastrous.

Yours sincerely,  
BRENNING JAMES,  
Cherry Orchard,  
Marlow Common,  
Buckinghamshire,  
February 16.

### Imitation and the law of copyright

From Mr Michael Rubinstein

Sir, Richard Morrison ("The fine art of imitation", February 20) writes pointedly of the recycling of images, phrases and styles in the visual arts and in music, by way of parodies, forgery, punning and sometimes enhancement - legitimate quotation followed perhaps by variations or fresh development.

However, he errs when he writes that "the doctrine of 'intellectual property' - that a creative artist can 'own' an idea - has been enshrined into our culture, via the copyright laws."

Not so: there is not and never has been, under our copyright laws, copyright protection for ideas. That is just as well since, unless and until it is embodied in some form capable of being recognised as unique and reproduced, there can be no certainty about the distinction of an idea and the identity of its originator.

Even copyright lawyers do not regret that there are no valid disputes over the originality, ownership and identification of ideas. An idea as an item of intellectual property is a concept which brings into question the source or sources of human creativity - a cornucopia for philosophers rather than lawyers.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL RUBINSTEIN,  
2 Raymond Buildings,  
Gray's Inn, WC1,  
February 21.

From the President of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents

Sir, Intellectual property is not, as Richard Morrison maintains, the doctrine "that a creative artist can 'own' an idea". It is a body of laws, including those of patents, designs and trade marks, which are designed to, and are extremely effective at, protecting our artists and inno-

vators against the theft of their work, and enabling British companies to obtain royalties from around the world for their innovations.

Payments to Pilkington during the 1970s, for example, kept the developers of the float-glass process afloat. Intellectual property also keeps potentially dangerous fakes, such as defective imitation brake linings for aircraft, off the market.

Although Richard Morrison is guilty of repeating old ideas in his article, contrary to his opinion, he is not guilty of copyright infringement. Copyright is a simple right which enables originators to prevent copying of their work, and there can be no question of copyright infringement where a piece of work is independently conceived.

Yours faithfully,  
BILL CARO,  
President, The Chartered Institute of Patent Agents,  
Staple Inn Buildings,  
High Holborn, WC1,  
February 20.

From Mr Robin H. Crockett

Sir, Richard Morrison is perhaps unnecessarily timorous when expressing his fear that parodies, sly allusions and pastiches fall foul of current copyright laws. Parody, burlesque, caricature, etc., will not generally constitute copyright infringement unless the imitative version retains a substantial part of the imitated original; and in some circumstances even a substantial lifting from an earlier work may be justified as, for example, fair dealing for the purposes of criticism, review or the reporting of current events.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBIN H. CROCKETT,  
Ferneleigh,  
Beachy Head Road, East Sussex,  
February 21.

### Education standards

From Professor Sally Tomlinson

Sir, Whatever the arguments for and against a broader curriculum for young people aged 14-16 years, we should be clear about the extent of the government U-turn from the idea that a broader curriculum should be available to all pupils from 14, and the likely consequences.

At the North of England Conference in January 1989 Mr Baker, then Secretary of State for Education, quoted research carried out by David Smith (senior research fellow at the Policy Studies Institute) and myself, which indicated that less than 20 per cent of fourth and fifth year pupils followed a balanced curriculum as defined by the government in 1985 and despite, as Mr Baker put it, "the lip service that has been paid over the past few years to breadth and balance".

At the North of England Conference in January 1991, Mr Clarke, the new secretary of state, abandoned plans for pupils to study all the national curriculum subjects to 16 plus. A pattern of "option choice" of subjects at 14 will thus continue.

In the research Mr Baker quoted, carried out in 20 urban comprehensive schools, we found that there was a tendency for middle-class

pupils to be put on higher-level academic courses, while working-class children, sometimes despite good results in subject tests in their third year, were more likely to be allocated to lower level "practical" courses.

There were wide differences between the schools in their policies for allocating pupils at 14 - children with the same attainments and preferences would be able to study what they wanted at one school but not at another - also schools with the higher academic standards offered a broad curriculum to all pupils.

We wrote in our book *The School Effect*, published in 1989, that "an objective of the national curriculum introduced by the Education Reform Act 1988 is, of course, to reduce these extreme variations between schools, and to give effect to the idea of balance... children currently placed on lower-level courses would in many cases be capable of tackling more difficult work".

This government U-turn will not contribute to raising standards in education.

Yours faithfully,  
SALLY TOMLINSON,  
University of Lancaster,  
Department of Educational Research,  
Carmel College, Lancaster.

### Research funding

From Mr Bryn Giles

Sir, The underfunding of scientific research in Britain is not merely a matter of maintaining our reputation for excellence, referred to in your report (February 18) of the letter from 72 distinguished scientists. There are more tangible long-term dangers.

A country that has nobody working at the frontiers of research in a discipline will soon find itself with nobody who either understands what is happening at the frontier or what its implications are. Third-world countries are not technologically backward because they haven't access to the published results of research; much more to blame is the lack of people who can understand it or make use of it. Do we want to join them?

Yours faithfully,  
BRYN GILES,  
12 Carmarthen Road, Bristol, Avon,  
February 18.

relationship with Judaism:

1. God's covenant with the Jewish people remains in force, and has not been replaced by the Church.
2. All antisemitism, and teaching of contempt by the churches, is abhorrent.
3. Judaism is a living tradition, and a gift of God to the world.
4. Jews and Christians have a common responsibility to witness to God's righteousness and peace, and to work for justice, reconciliation and the integrity of creation.

It would be tragic if Christian proselytism amongst Jews, and the general targeting of other faiths in Britain, turned the Decade of Evangelism into an unseemly public squabble between religions. That is already beginning to happen. An official joint statement by all the participating churches that the Decade is not about undermining other religious communities is long overdue.

Yours sincerely,  
JIM RICHARDSON,  
Executive Director,  
The Council of Christians and Jews,  
1 Dennington Park Road, NW6,  
February 19.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071 782 5046).

### Recovering debts

From the Director of the National Consumer Council

Sir, Mr A. A. Johnson argues (February 18) that the Law Commission's proposals to abolish the use of certificated bailiffs to recover rent arrears (the distress for rent procedure) "show too little concern for the rights of the creditor". On the contrary, as the commission's report says:

"Distress puts the landlord in a more advantageous position than many of the tenant's other creditors. There is much evidence that tenants in difficulty with rent arrears will normally have other debts. The National Consumer Council has on a number of occasions advocated procedures for debt collection which are fair to the debtor and efficient in getting repayments to all creditors."

Distraint by certificated bailiffs - taking and selling someone's possessions - fails to do this. It only pays off the rent debt, often forces the debtor to borrow from elsewhere and plunges people already in dire poverty into deeper misery.

There are other ways for landlords to recover rent arrears. The commission's recommendation to abolish this harsh, archaic remedy is to be welcomed.

Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE HEALY, Director,  
National Consumer Council,  
20 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1,  
February 18.

### Poles apart

From Miss Lucinda Powell

Sir, Philip Howard does not actually sympathise with the problems General Colin Powell faces with the pronunciation of his name ("Vowel as in 'vow'", February 22). Being a Powell myself, I can.

Colin (with a long 'o') is only the beginning of his problems. His surname opens up another barrage of suggestions. To some, I am Pole to others Poi (as in Poi) and of course the inevitable Powel as in Howl.

Roll (as in bowl) on the day when I get married and can take on a new surname.

Yours faithfully,  
LUCINDA POWELL (as in Pole),  
71 Sulgrave Road, W6,  
February 22.











# Portrait of the trapeze artist, in the pink

With the Sixties revival in full swing, André Courrèges is once again showing the way in plastics and pastels. Liz Smith reports on the flurry of activity in his fashion empire

In any discussion about fashion these days, the name Courrèges tends to crop up. A Sixties revival is in full swing, and designers are unabashed about invoking his name, as they recreate the architectural lines of the short trapeze dresses with which André Courrèges revolutionised the shape of fashion in the Sixties. The graphic Courrèges-style shift and ribbed bodysuit is as much a part of the fashion vocabulary of the moment as the Chanel-style suit and chain-handled bag. But unlike Coco Chanel, who died 20 years ago, André Courrèges is alive. His style is back in vogue, and so is he.

Last week the man himself, now 67 but still wearing his customary uniform of sugar-pink cord trousers, polo shirt, sweater and trainers, was in New York being fêted by Bloomingdale's at a charity show he co-hosted with Anna Wintour of American Vogue, attended by New York's new wave designers, including Isaac Mizrahi, Marc Jacobs



*'Fashion has been looking back. It is time we take up the futuristic flame again'*

André Courrèges

and Donna Karan. Bloomingdale's has just installed a Plexiglass and white vinyl Courrèges shop in four of its stores, selling white piqué A-line tunics, patent vinyl jackets, and cotton rib-knit shorts and T-shirts, and has devoted its entire run of Lexington Avenue windows to space-ships disgorging mannequins wearing Courrèges clothes.

Next week another Courrèges boutique opens in the Galeries Lafayette in Paris. On March 19 a Courrèges show is being held in Paris during the ready-to-wear collections, the first since 1985. A Courrèges haute couture line is in the pipeline for 1992.

In this country, where the Courrèges look sold particularly successfully in Harrods in the late Sixties, the only retailer with the nous to go to the source of the current trend is Simpson in Piccadilly. Courrèges originals will be



available in the store later this year. This flurry of activity in the Courrèges empire, however, is happening just a touch slowly, trailing behind the copycat white vinyl boots already arriving in the shops. It looks as if the Sixties revival has caught the Courrèges fashion house on the hop.

The hiccup in timing is simply explained. In the Seventies, when fashion went floppy and folksy, the Courrèges structured A-line dress, with its well-seamed and square-cut coat on top, went out of style. His fashion power faded. The fashion house he had set up in 1961 with his wife, Coqueline, changed ownership several times. In 1983, the Japanese moved in with a 65 per cent stake. In 1985 he stopped producing a couture collection. It was only last year, with fresh financial backing from Epargne Développement, the French venture capital company, that M Courrèges could start taking his futuristic fashion ideals forward into the Nineties.

In the same airy couture studios in the rue François Ier where fashion journalists and buyers remember subsiding awkwardly on to boxy white vinyl pouffes to watch his shows, M Courrèges, dressed in pink, of course, talks

about the revival of the look that has propelled him back into the limelight. Three decades after he startled the fashion world with clinging bodysuits and cut-out vinyl dresses, the former rugby enthusiast and fitness fanatic has lost some of his vigour, but his eyes sparkle behind clear plastic spectacles as he talks about the revival of the knitted bodysuits, stretchy biker's shorts, sleeveless shifts and tunics that are clearly stamped with his style.

Flipping through a portfolio of pictures of a recent Courrèges Sport Future collection for Japan, he rejects the idea that his designs must always be date-stamped "the Sixties". To M Courrèges the bodysuit remains the most modern way to dress. "That is the Nineties," he says, jabbing a finger at a silver metallic golfing jacket, with robotic golf caddy, and clear plastic trapeze beachdress worn over a white Spandex swimsuit.

"It is amusing what is happening. I find it almost natural. The Sixties was a decade with a strong personality. But since then the fashion business has only looked back. It is time we take up the futuristic flame again."

He explains his design philos-

ophy for the body-skimming A-line dress. "Look how the Chinese carry heavy weights from a pole across the shoulders," he says. "Everything must swing out from there, separated from the body."

When I ask about his fondness for white and soft pastels, he launches into an impassioned discussion about the light which floods in through floor-to-ceiling windows in his Paris studio, even on a winter's day. "We live on a planet which is part of the cosmos. The sun washes us with light. It is right to use fundamental colours - pale blue of the sky, or even a clear navy like the night in the south Moroccan desert," he says. There are indeed shades of, say, melon or green of such piercing clarity that they are established in fashion terms as his own.

A disciple of Cristóbal Balenciaga, M Courrèges worked with le maître from 1949 to 1961.



Courrèges 1991: far left, striped tunic dress; left, white piqué sleeveless tunic with Lycra shorts; above, black patent jacket with biker's shorts

The way we were: Courrèges Sixties sunglasses

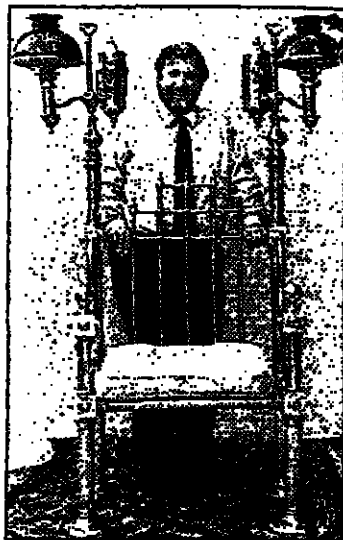
## Light and chaise

The 'chaisolier' throws new light on the concept of the comfy chair

WHEN is a chair also a light? When it is a "chaisolier". This is the term that Christopher Wray, the London lamp dealer, has given to an illuminating invention that makes a virtue out of the classic interrogation scenario.

His chair-lamp will be on show at London's Chelsea Design Week, which starts next weekend. Faced with the event's theme - "Somewhere To Sit" - Mr Wray was determined to dream up a way in which his King's Road lighting shops could participate in this annual interior-design jamboree.

The chair is solid brass with three-inch cast brass "knuckle joints" linking its parts. The back is a brass portaculis, while the seat comprises brass straps, two inches wide, interwoven beneath a specially made suede squab. Faced



Mr Wray and the chaisolier

brass feet plant the chair, which weighs more than 60lb, firmly on the ground. From its throne-like back rise tall brass rods supporting green, glass-shaded, Edwardian-style oil lamps.

"I don't think the chaisolier has any historical precedent," Mr Wray says. "I wanted it to look a bit like a war-time campaign chair, although this one is so heavy there is no way you could fold it up and take it with you."

The paraffin lamps are energy-efficient, although the chair could have electric lights or even run on solar power. The chaisolier is brilliant for reading as there's direct light on your lap, and it's also good for watching television. For the adventurous, we could fit wheels to make it horse-drawn."

The chaisolier takes pride of place at Mr Wray's showroom at 600 King's Road, London SW6, next week. Similar versions can be made to individual specification on request. At £4,350, Mr Wray is not expecting a flood of orders.

NICOLE SWINGLEY

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Chelsea Design Week runs from March 3-9 (trade days, March 3-7; public days, March 8 and 9). For details, 071-233 5971.

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## Drive in, queue up, unwind

Giving motorists a more pleasant break could prove to be a mixed blessing

Britain's newest stretch of motorway, the M40 extension, was opened in January, without a single petrol station, restaurant or public convenience. Although three service stations are planned, the transport department (DoT) cannot say when they will be built. Planning permission for sites in Oxfordshire, at Ardley and Tetworth, has been granted following public enquiries, but the DoT is still awaiting results from last summer's enquiry into the Barn Hill station. This is planned to be Britain's largest yet, and has raised objections from local residents who fear that it will bring noise and intrusion. The Royal Fine Art Commission has expressed its "delight" at the elegant design of the bridges along the Oxford to Birmingham stretch of the new motorway.

Ove Arup & Partners, the company responsible, does not design service stations, but has provided the DoT with advice on the engineering and environmental implications of sites for future M40 service areas. "We have to consider both visual and noise intrusion," Keith Law, of Arup, says. "Illumination cut-off is also important. Mast lighting can make a site which is practically hidden in daylight cast a large pool of light at night."

The studies conducted by Arup have been commissioned by the DoT in line with its own regulations concerning motorway service areas (MSA). Although the restric-

tions on environmental impact and visual intrusion have been in effect since the first MSAs were built, the restrictions are more precisely defined today than they were 20 years ago.

The early MSA designs suffered from being a new concept. The design brief was challenging - to combine imagination with a theoretical notion of what Britain's motorway drivers might need.

The most frequent architectural scheme for early MSAs was low-rise, stark and space-ager. "Many of the early service areas look as if they had just landed in the place," says Mike Ward, the director of Scott Brownrigg and Turner (SBT), the London architect which has been designing service stations for Granada since 1983.

Every MSA site is selected and leased by the DoT, which sets specific standards for the stations, including the number of car parking spaces and lavatories, and the fact that MSAs must provide access to hot and cold food 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Between them, five companies run Britain's 55 service stations, employing 8,000 people and servicing the needs of 200 million travellers a year.

The current intention of MSA designers is, as Tony Harden, managing director of Travers Morgan Project Management, says: "To provide motorists with a calm environment with lots of space and no sense of rush."

The huge size of many of Britain's motorway service



Early days: travellers look out over an almost empty M1 from the Newport Pagnell MSA in 1960

stations perturbs Penny Evans, the transport campaigner for the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). "We don't accept that they need to be of the scale that they are at the moment," she says. "The council wants MSAs to be planned as part of the road route, and not 'bolted on afterwards', and praises some French service areas that are more like picnic sites, with minimal facilities and basic amenities."

Ms Evans is particularly critical of the ubiquitous shopping mall layout that is currently popular with British architects. "They're full of noisy games machines and shops which sell things that are not really essential," she says. Mr Ward, however, regards the plethora of chocolates and flowers on sale in

the new-style MSAs as "emergency purchases" and believes that the mall designs "offer motorists a greater range of facilities".

If the commercial development of MSAs increases, then we may well face the

alarmed prospect described by Mr Law: "Motorway service station malls could start to generate journeys rather than just serving the needs of existing trips."

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## FURNITURE

# Will time conquer art in a national cabinet shuffle?

As we approached the imposing bulk of the Badminton Cabinet, Simon Jervis exclaimed, "It's more like a great baroque building!" Even when split in two sections in order to fit a low-ceilinged storeroom, this colossal tour de force of Florentine furniture-makers' art — some 11 ft high — retained its magnificence intact.

The dowdy Jervis is striving to raise £8.7 million and secure the cabinet for the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, where his annual purchase grant, as director, is £2,300. But his optimism is unshakable and he became even more excited when we reached the object of his passion. "The form of the cabinet, which began as a secret treasure chest around 1500, expanded dramatically during the baroque period," he said. "By the time the Badminton Cabinet was commissioned by the Duke of Beaufort in 1726, it had become something to gaze at in amazement and wonder — not something to keep your jewels in."

The marked absence of locks on any of the drawers proved Jervis's point. This is an object intended above all to bewilder the viewer, and it still succeeds. Astonishingly well preserved, it uses the most lavish material with a skill and subtlety that add up to a great deal more than swaggering ostentation. The most spectacular elements are the drawers, each decorated with an inlay of *pietre dure* (hard stones) where flowers and birds intertwine with exquisite abandon (see detail, above right). The texture of a butterfly's wing or a petal is simulated in ravishing flourishes of colour, and every panel is bordered by rich bands of amethyst quartz. Pilasters containing the finest lapis lazuli regulate the panels, imposing a grand architectural border on the ensemble.

The climax of this consummate orchestration occurs at the apex, where gleaming gilt-bronze figures of the Four Seasons crown the cabinet's corners. Modelled with sinuous elegance by Girolamo

**The Badminton Cabinet will be exported from Britain next month, unless an £8.7 million appeal is successful. Richard Cork reports**



Ticiatti, they personify the theme of Time which receives its most literal expression in the clock positioned between them. The remorseless ticking of its hands provides the reminder of mortality, just as the plants and insects depicted in the panels symbolise life at its most ephemeral. But there is nothing melancholy about this redoubtable cabinet. Instead of operating as a *memento mori* it affirms the conquering of Time by Art. The Beaufort motto, inscribed above the clock, declares with pride: "Mutare vel timere sperno" ("I scorn change or fear").

The presence of the clock also introduces another level of meaning, intimately bound up with the ambitions of the young aristocrat who installed it at Badminton in

1732. He would have regarded the clock as a symbol of his princely self, a ruler whose subjects run their lives according to his instruction. Although only 19 when he ordered the cabinet from Florence, he had been brought up with an unassailable belief in the quality of his ancestry. Surmounting the clock are the gilt-bronze Beaufort arms, rejoicing in the family's direct descent from John of Gaunt and the Plantagenet dynasty.

Jervis attaches considerable significance to the fact that, soon after commissioning the cabinet, the young duke had an audience with the Pretender in Rome. He designed a great baroque palace for himself, and the monumental assurance of the Badminton Cabinet implies that his owner must have entertained fantasies about his regal status. He would certainly have favoured the association of marble with antiquity — as though the revival of the ancient Roman art brought with it a resurgence of imperial power as well.

Little wonder this virtuoso display of craftsmanship is conceived as a baroque triumphal arch. It rejoices in the discernment and largesse of a patron who was prepared to order the last, the largest and the most resplendent of all the great princely cabinets that were produced by the Medici workshop.

There is nothing comparable with it anywhere in Britain, and the Badminton Cabinet's supreme quality explains why Barbara Seward Johnson, heiress of the Johnson & Johnson baby-powder fortune, was prepared to set a new world record for a piece of furniture when she bought it at Christie's last July. Unless Jervis succeeds in raising this formidable sum by March 17, she will export the Beaufort masterpiece to her home in New Jersey.

The tragedy is that the nation could have bought the cabinet, at less than half the current price, in 1989. That was when the Duke of



Jervis: "It's unthinkable that any self-respecting nation would be prepared to let such a masterpiece go"

Beaufort offered it to the Victoria and Albert Museum, confidentially and exclusively, for £4 million payable over three years. Since the V&A was then embroiled in the Three Graces campaign, and had no hope of persuading the government to increase its purchase grant of £1.14 million, the offer was declined.

Jervis was at that time Acting Keeper of Furniture at the museum, and had no power at the decision-making level. But he is

determined to make amends for the fiasco now, and confesses himself delighted that the National Art Collections Fund has just launched a special appeal to save the cabinet — the first such venture since its bid to secure the Leonardo Cartoon in 1962.

Today, with only a quarter of the price raised and time running out fast, the cabinet will go on view at the British Library. How confident is Jervis of ultimate success? "It's possible if everyone pulls to-

gether," he said. "The government's posture is that they care about our heritage, but do their fine words really mean anything? It's unthinkable that any self-respecting nation would be prepared to let such a masterpiece go. This is one we really mustn't lose."

The Badminton Cabinet is on display at the King's Library, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-323 7111). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-6pm, until March 17.

## RADIO

## Yellow venting of critical spleen

THEATRE reviewing is a brand of upmarket consumer journalism which gets the production in question a free mention, however disobliging. This process is essentially economic, though not perhaps in the obvious way: individual critics have nothing like the power attributed to them, while theatre managements are publicly constrained by *amour propre*. No "Jacobethan" revenge-play yet discovered contains enough poison for this well of bad relations, as witness Diana Riggs's compilation of homicidal notices entitled "No Turn Unstaged". On Saturday's Kaleidoscope (Radio 4) Riggs bravely trotted out the line in which her nude stage presence was ungalantly said to resemble "a mausoleum with insufficient flying buttresses".

Much the same could be said of the programme itself, which, in Kaleidoscope's usual tokenistic fashion, proceeded on the Cheshire Cat principle of a disembodied rictus lowering over a suburban hedge. All teeth and smiles, girls. Interviewed outside a theatre, Sir Peter Hall said, "I don't bear any resentment." "Really I don't," he continued. Michael Billington of *The Guardian* confessed to having "political, religious and sexual convictions" — and, presumably, a broadminded probation officer. A "workshop" for aspirant reviewers (12-plus) at the Lyric, Hammer-smith, seemed to be taking the whole thing preternaturally seriously.

There simply was not enough spleen to go round. There was, for example, not a peep from Simon Gray, who has taken to naming the iffist characters in his television plays after past and present theatre critics — all of them, remarkably, heterosexual. There was no hint of the existence on this earth of Trevor Nunn, well-known for taking his lack of resentment to farcical extremes. There was not a shred of evidence that a certain internationally famous dramatist once uttered a death threat to the critic of a national newspaper. And tact prevents me from advertising to the funniest anecdote purveyed by one of the contributors to this page, a sublimely ridiculous encounter with a theatrical dame in a hotel lift. A tremendous missed opportunity (*The Times*).

ON SUNDAY, while Radio 4 FM News was managing the not inconsiderable trick of turning a news blackout into a news item in its own right, Radio 3 resurrected the ghost of a German-Czech Jew who traded in the notion that paranoia is a given. History repeats itself as farce, or at least as situation comedy; here, Franz Kafka metamorphosing from a tortoise owned by an insurance salesman in the north of England. Kafka's Dick was Alan Bennett's stage play resting for radio, though retaining a wealth of staginess and, more pertinently, Alison Steadman in her original role as a dim shrew. She and Richard Griffiths (the husband) deserve a long-running series all to themselves, and where, one might ask, is the script? As to the play itself, the critics loved it.

STEPHEN PETTIT

MARTIN CROPPER

## Striding no longer

ANOTHER middle-scale contemporary dance company has announced it will be folding, following the withdrawal of its Arts Council funding. One month after the closure of Extempore Dance Theatre, Second Stride says it has been given six weeks' notice to close. Ian Spink, the artistic director, says "companies that do cross-over work like us get a bad deal. Our last two productions have been close to being music theatre, almost like an opera, and I think that has worked against us." Second Stride's current production, *Lives of the Great Poets*, will end its tour in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, on March 23.

**Union Jack**  
THE actor Danny De Vito is returning to the director's chair to film a bio-pic about the American union leader

### Last chance...

ROBERT Sturua's storming production of Chekhov's *Three Sisters* at the Queen's (071-724 1166) sometimes seems to owe more to the Moscow State Circus than to the traditions of the Moscow Arts Theatre; but there is no doubting either its physical boldness or the class that the Redgrave family brings to the leading characters. With Vanessa's Olga forlornly dreaming of lost possibilities, Lynn's Masha balefully hitting the vodka, and their niece, Jemma Redgrave, screaming out Irena's pain, the revival is well worth catching before it closes on Saturday.

## THEATRE

## Miles better at raising mermaids

Simon Tait outlines the plan to honour one of theatre's most inspiring figures

Not everything in Bernard Miles' career could truly be called inspired. Though the memory of his Long John Silver is cherished, he is not a great actor, and as a director-manager his prodigious career was peppered with what seem like remarkable gaffes. Charles Laughton begged to play Galileo in the play which opened the Mermaid Theatre in 1959, and was turned down. And Miles once chided an usherette for nursing impossible acting ambitions: she is Nicola McAuliffe. But he achieved one magnificent goal: getting the Mermaid built. That was done by a combination of indefatigable enthusiasm and picaresque cunning. In Long John style, he once "kidnapped" the governor of the Bank of England, taking him to a boat on the Thames, where he relieved him of a cheque for £25. It allowed Miles to say that his project was supported by the Bank.

Lord Miles' partnership with his wife, Jennifer Wilson, was an essential part of the Mermaid's success, and since her death last November he has been living in a Middlesex nursing home, now 83 and reportedly with only his state pension for income. He is to tread the boards again on Sunday, in a gala tribute which McAuliffe is producing at the Mermaid. "He was unstoppable," McAuliffe says. He had an

*'He had an enthusiasm about everything to do with the theatre'*

enthusiasm about every thing to do with the theatre, with which he infected about three generations of actors, directors, writers and designers when the theatre was in terrible depression." The evening is expected to raise £20,000, and when McAuliffe and the actor-director Ron Pember asked Miles in what form he would like a lasting tribute he stipulated not an Olivier-type prize, but a science bursary at his old Oxford college, Pembroke.

The enthusiasm he instilled abounds still. As he sits on stage, probably in his old brown cardigan, such luminaries as Ned Sherrin, Patricia Routledge, John Wells, Norman Wisdom, Sir Roger Bannister, Sir Alec Guinness, Stephen Sondheim, Lindsay Anderson and Sir Fred Hoyle will all do their Milesian turns.

Inevitably there will be a *Treasure Island* sketch. Tom Baker — one in a line of Miles-nurtured Long Johns which included Sir Donald Wolfitt, Joss Ackland and Barry Humphries — will strap on the wooden leg again. Baker reminisces that "for Bernard the job never stopped. You might say 'Bernard, I've just heard my father's died', and he would reply, 'Dear, dear, we'll send the poor old chap some flowers. Now on this line I want you to...'"

The Bernard Miles Celebration is on Sunday at the Mermaid (071-410 0102)

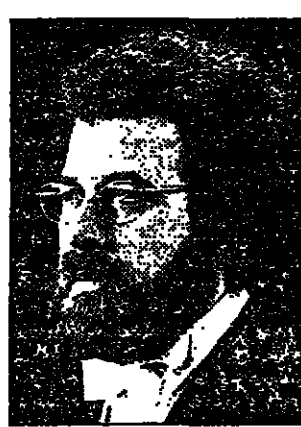
## CLASSICAL MUSIC

## Pitched for pleasure

A FRIDAY night series called "Classics for Pleasure" sounds like something strictly to be avoided by anyone who needs his music for more than merely superficial titillation. Last week, however, the London Philharmonic Orchestra — sounding notably classier under the efficient, undemonstrative conducting of Matthias Bamert than they had a few days earlier with Sir Georg Solti — gave life to that audience-catching label. They performed a programme of substantial, serious symphonies by Haydn and Brahms intriguingly separated by a rarely heard work of the old establishment figure Sir Hubert Parry: the 1982 cantata *The Lotus Eaters*.

The piece is not, let it immediately be said, a great one. Many of Tennyson's lines, a version of the "Choric Song" from *The Odyssey*, seem distinctly awkwardly set. Moments like the one when the tenors and basses of the chorus — a trifle ragged and all too liable to stray from the pitch — sing the couplet "Dear is the memory of our wedded lives/And dear the last embraces of our wives" sound silly today, reeking of high Victorian morality.

Worse, Parry, for all his fluency and skill, sometimes loses his involvement, so that the work seems to plough on, often with ideas uninspired or insufficiently fulfilled. That said, *The Lotus Eaters* does have its magical moments — the opening unaccompanied clarinet solo, a siren-like recurrent idea, and much sensitive orchestration, for instance — but it nevertheless belongs strictly to those backwaters of British musical history rather than the mainstream. Della Jones gamely undertook the mezzo-soprano soloist's role, though she



Sinopoli: traditional readings

sometimes made rather too much of the poetry's alliterations with her exaggeratedly declamatory style. Haydn's "Trauer" Symphony in E minor, No 44, suffered slightly from Bamert's natural caution: both the adagio and the presto finale would have sounded more characterful if he had dared to opt for faster speeds. Yet, though it lacked the raw cut and thrust of Trevor Pinnock's recent recording (on period-style instruments), this was a fine performance of a daring work. It was neatly balanced after the interval by Brahms's Fourth Symphony, whose first movement took a little time to establish consistency of pulse and blend, but which settled to become an impressively strong reading.

In the course of Giuseppe Sinopoli's controversial reign at the Philharmonia, I do not remember ever before hearing him conduct Mozart or Beethoven. He did both on Sunday, after a performance of Schoenberg's First Chamber Symphony which sounded curiously garish and harsh in this hall. As so often with Sinopoli, one had the feeling that the moment counted

for more than the entity. Perhaps surprisingly in view of his reputation, and despite the occasional oddly balanced texture, his readings of Mozart's C major Piano Concerto, K467 (in which Alicia de Larrocha was the brilliant-toned soloist), and Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony, took as their basis tradition rather than controversy, though there were some characteristically extreme speeds. The scherzo of the Beethoven, for instance, he took at a risky, unrelenting pace, though here, as elsewhere, the Philharmonia's playing was brilliant.

The funeral march, on the other hand, has surely rarely been conducted more slowly even by Bernstein or Klemperer, though unlike both of those men Sinopoli wilfully refracted this music through the prism of a Mahlerian adagio. However, there was no doubting the power of the finale, though it is not insignificant that its variation form is by nature episodic.

STEPHEN PETTIT

MARTIN CROPPER

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## BBC 1

- 6.00 Cee-fax  
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer  
9.15 Kibby. Topical discussion with Robert Kibby-Silk and his studio audience. 5.55 Regional News and weather  
10.00 News 10.05 Playdays 10.40 Dish of the Day. Culinary advice from Rosemary Moon 10.40 Brainwave. Quiz show  
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 People Today. Magazine programme that includes special feature on Health UK  
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Rosemary Conley's Diet and Fitness Club 12.20 Sports Today. Entertainment live from Pebble Mill 12.25 Regional News and weather  
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather  
1.35 Neighbours. (Cee-fax) 1.50 Going for Gold  
2.15 Film: Lost Angel (1994, b/w). Margaret O'Brien stars in this entertaining children's film as Alpha, an orphaned girl genius who is being raised by a group of elderly scientists with the intention of turning her into a child prodigy. She is rescued by Mike Regan (James Craig), a journalist, determined to show her the "real world". Directed by Roy Rowland. Northern Ireland. Open House 3.00 Best of British 3.25 The Flintstones  
3.50 Bites. How to make useful objects from household rejects 4.05 Hockey World (r) 4.15 Jackanory Silver Stories. Silver Seymour, The Month Moggy, by Joan Eadington, read by Blue Peter presenter Denise Lewis-Jones 4.25 Quick Draw McGraw 4.35 The Really Wild Show. (Cee-fax)  
5.00 Newsround 5.10 Grange Hill. Episode 15. (Cee-fax)  
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Cee-fax) Northern Ireland. Sportsweek 5.40 Inside Uster  
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anne Ford. Weather  
6.30 Regional News Magazine. Northern Ireland. Neighbours  
7.00 Holiday 81 featuring reports on a four-wheel drive trip through Rajasthan, India's land of the Kings; Amsterdam as a cheap and lively weekend break; and Starcast World, a revamped Britain's in North Wales. (Cee-fax)  
7.30 EastEnders. (Cee-fax)  
8.00 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring (Arthur Lowe) is taken to court by the chief warden (Bill Pertwee) when a light is left burning in the church hall. Another welcome repeat of classic comedy. (Cee-fax)  
8.30 A Question of Sport. The 300th edition of the popular sports quiz programme hosted by David Coleman. Tonight Bill Besumant is joined by Rangers and England goalkeeper Chris Woods and hurdler champion Kay Morley, while on Ian Botham's team are polo player Frankie Dettori and Steve Davis. (Cee-fax)  
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Laws. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather  
9.30 Spender: Well, Well, Well. Jimmy Nail stars as the crumpled undercover detective in an episode he wrote himself. Spender has the chance to forgo the designs of the northeast and return to London. Then, when he is accused of murder and Spender has to track down a reluctant eyewitness. Wales: Week In Week Out 10.00 Spender  
10.25 Film 91 with Barry Norman. Includes reviews of French thriller Gerard Depardieu's first American feature Green Card and director Barry Levinson's Avalon. Northern Ireland: 1992 - the European Challenge



An enduring struggle for justice: Sidney Lumet (10.55pm)

- 10.55 Omnibus: Sidney Lumet.  
● CHOICE: A lucidly organised profile of the American director complements a short season of his films on BBC1. Dasey Goodman's documentary emphasises Lumet's prolific output (28 films in 33 years), his preference for shooting in New York rather than Hollywood and his reluctance to follow the auteur theory and shoot about a "Lumet film". But it is the film-making as a collaboration, rather than the result of a single artistic vision, his work has shown common concerns. His most enduring theme is the struggle for justice, which goes back to his debut picture, Twelve Angry Men, and has continued through the more recent Serpico (which is being shown on Friday) and Prince of the City. Lumet talks interestingly about his films and is allowed a generous plug for his latest, *O.J. and A*, which deals with a typical Lumet subject of corruption and racism in the New York police force. Northern Ireland: Open House 11.40-12.30am Omnibus  
11.45 News and weather. Ends at 11.55. Wales. Film 91 12.15am News and weather

## BBC 2

- 8.00 News 8.15 Westminster. A round-up of business from the Lords and Commons  
9.00 Daytime On Two: Meeting the individual needs of the pupils 9.30 GCSE Games 9.45 Let's See 10.00 Series for the 10 and 11-year-olds 10.15 Learning to Read 10.40 Who? 10.47 11.00 Watch 11.15 Update Europe 11.35 Series of science drama programmes for seven to nine-year-olds 11.55 Music 12.15 Technology and design 12.35 Magazine for beginners in French. 12.55 Chris Serle gives adults tips on how to communicate more effectively 1.20 Mr Benn. Cartoon story told by Ray Brooks 1.40 Outlook  
2.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (r)  
2.15 Carvers: The Davies Collection. The sculptor Jonah Jones tells the story of two essays from north Wales who built up a collection of priceless French Impressionist paintings early in the century  
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live. Including prime minister's questions 3.50 News, regional news and weather  
4.00 Catchword. Paul Cole hosts the popular word quiz  
4.30 Fighting Talk. Sheila McDonald discusses the achievements and the difficulties faced by black actors working in Britain in the nineties. She talks to the noted West Indian theatre director and founder of the black Theatre Theatre Company, Yvonne Brewster, who was responsible for the successful all-black production of *Wade's The Importance of Being Earnest*  
5.00 Advice Shop. The problem of debt  
5.30 Gardeners' World. Featuring Adrian Bloom's inspired winter garden in Birmingham. North. Plus handy tips on pruning of late-flowering varieties such as Clematis and Jasmine, and on taking cuttings from geraniums and jobs for the week from Birmingham (r)  
6.00 Film: Bad Sides (1994). This film is largely remembered for its living Berlin score rather than its storyline. Gang Crosby, Fred Astaire and Joan Crawford sing and dance their way through a tale of friendship, joy and sorrow in which a chorus girl marries a nightclub owner in preference to a song and dance man. Features Fred Astaire's famous "Puttin' on the Ritz" routine. Directed by Stuart Heisler  
7.45 Assignment: Changing Sides. One time enemy of the west, Syria now backs the Allied forces in the Gulf. Kathi Graves examines the motives behind this extraordinary about-face and tries to find out what exactly Syria hopes to gain from its participation in the coalition action against Iraq  
8.30 Food and Drink. Kelly Kelly, Michael Barry and Jill Golden kick off the last episode of the series with a look at water butchery and their relative value for money. Then, while Michael whips up a prawn gumbo in the studio, cookery writer Rod Dennis pays a visit to a plantation house deep in the heart of Louisiana for a brunch date with a group of politicians  
9.00 Twin Peaks. Dedicated viewers will be intrigued to discover in this episode that, despite the fact that they don't say goodbye to Secretary Spence, a new husband, Bobby figures out a new way to make money and Pete delivers a message to Ben. Even more intriguing is the fact that the one-eyed man has had an identity crisis, yet still remains agent Cooper's greatest hope in his search for Bob. Starring Kyle MacLachlan and Michael Ontkean. (Cee-fax)  
9.30 Still awaiting compensation: victims of Bhopal (8.50pm)



Still awaiting compensation: victims of Bhopal (8.50pm)

- 9.50 Talking Liberties: The B-Word.  
● CHOICE: The ramifications of the Bhopal tragedy have been extensively aired on television and to a large extent this first in a new series of Talking Liberties retreats further ground. But it is right to be reminded that more than 10,000 people have died as a result of the Union Carbide chemical plant in India people are still dying at the rate of one a day and that the death toll is now more than 4,000. The main thrust of the programme, however, is to accuse Union Carbide of ducking its responsibilities. Having managed to head off a hearing in the American courts, which might have bankrupted the company, Union Carbide was able to power its way through the Indian legal system and get away with a compensation settlement only a fifth of what it owed to the victims of the gas. Even so, the victims have yet to receive any of the money, which remains frozen pending further legal action.  
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Pezman  
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine  
11.55 Weather  
12.00 Open University: An Introduction to Psychology. Ends at 12.30am

## ITV

- 6.00 TV-am  
9.25 Gulf News Report 9.55 Thames News and weather  
10.00 The Time... The Place... John Stapleton chairs a discussion on unattractive wives  
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine series  
12.05 Rock, Jane & Freddy. For the young 12.25 Thames News and weather  
12.30 ITN News with John Suchet  
1.20 Home and Away 1.50 A Country Practice  
2.20 Snooker: The Pearl Assurance British Open. Tony Francis with the afternoon's fifth-round matches  
3.15 ITN News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 Families. Drama series set in England and Australia  
3.55 The Wombles. Animated adventures narrated by Bernard Cribbins. (Oracle) 4.05 The Return of Doganlar 4.30 All Change. Comedy series with Frankie Howard and Peggy Mount  
5.00 Home and Away (r)  
5.30 ITN News with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather  
5.55 Thames Help. Second in the week's series on the effect of the Gulf war on Londoners  
6.00 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz show for teenagers hosted by Bob Holness  
6.30 Thames News and weather  
7.00 Emmerdale. Long-running soap about life in the Yorkshire Dales (Oracle)  
7.30 Thames Reports: Battle for the Bottom. Reporter Roger Beam examines the human cost of Wandsworth's position at the bottom of the poll league  
8.00 Gulf News Report followed by The Bill. Every Mother's Son. Realistic and well-written drama series about the police. In this episode a fiery and independent doctor has to make an emergency call to a "no-men's land" housing estate. When she goes to the rescue of an elderly woman, who is being victimised because her son is a murderer, the doctor ends up being attacked by drug addicts. (Oracle)

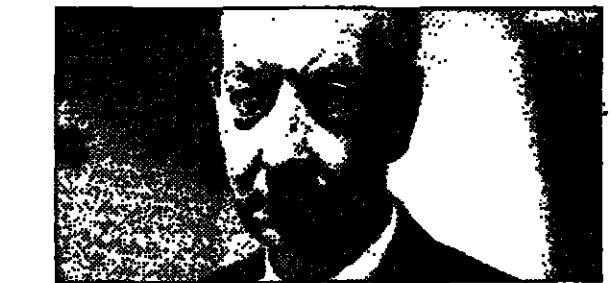


A refuge from unsolicited advances: Cindy Day (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Fiddlers Three. Curiously dated (perhaps because it is a rehash of writer Eric Chappell's mid-Seventies TV hit *Squirrels*) comedy about a group of office workers, which wastes the considerable talents of David Threlkeld and John Wood. When she goes to the rescue of a young woman, who is being victimised because her son is a murderer, the doctor ends up being attacked by drug addicts. (Oracle)  
9.00 Film: Whispers (1988). The director's name is the most interesting thing about this tired made-for-television movie. A series of murders occur in a small California town, and the victims are all connected with the local rap run by the glamorous Liz Bartlett (Loni Anderson). Dan Walker (Joe Perny), a reporter on the paper, sets about trying to track down the killer, who is known as "The Whisperer" because he telephones his victims before murdering them. Directed by Christian Nyby (continues after the news)  
10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Julia Somerville (Oracle)  
10.35 Thames News and weather  
10.45 Film: Whispers (1988) continued  
11.30 Snooker: The Pearl Assurance British Open. Tony Francis presents coverage of this evening's two fifth round matches  
12.30am ITN News Report  
12.35 This Week - 35 Years on the Front Line: Busman's Holiday. This 1972 report follows an English bus driver and his wife when they visit Northern Ireland in an attempt to understand "the trouble". (Oracle)  
1.05 Video View presented by Mariella Frostrup. Featuring reviews of two recent British films, Paper Moon, starring Paul McGann, and Hardware, a low-budget but atmospheric sci-fi thriller  
1.35 How Was It For You? Henry Kelly asks guests Nina Myskow, Matthew Parris and Geoffrey Phillips if they consider nostalgia to be a British disease or a delightful indulgence  
2.05 Film: Night People (1984). Gregory Peck stars in this espionage thriller that depicts the background of the Cold War. Peck plays a US colonel trying to secure the release of a young GI, who has been kidnapped by the Russians. Directed by Nunnally Johnson  
4.00 Entertainment UK. Weekly guide to what's on in Britain  
5.00 ITN Morning News with Richard Beth. Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 The Channel Four Daily includes the latest developments in the Gulf war  
9.25 Schools  
12.00 Channel 4 News summary  
12.05 The Parliament Programme presented by Sue Cameron  
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and business news services introduced by Susanne Somers  
1.00 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children  
2.00 Film: The Man Who Watched Trains Go By (1952). Thriller based on a Georges Simenon novel and starring Claude Rains as a Dutch shipping clerk who accidentally kills his embezzling boss (Herbert Lom). He then flees to Paris with the money he boss had originally stolen, and involves himself in a web of deceit, betrayal and murder. Directed by Harold French.  
3.30 Carousel. Cartoon attack on naughty busybodies  
3.45 Third Wave: The Wall. The series for older viewers examines the effect German unification has had on the elderly. How have senior citizens coped in the past, and will democracy make a difference to their lives? (Teletext)  
4.30 Countdown. Words and numbers game  
5.00 Boom! Magazine programme for children and teenagers with special needs. Includes a visit to a youth theatre group. Chicken Shed, plus Jane Paroce searching for wildlife science stories  
5.30 Same Difference. Includes a report by Dave Burdus, who examines the motives of disabled people who push themselves to their physical limits by participating in sporting events  
6.00 Dust. Sitcom set in Los Angeles  
6.30 Remote Control. Horrendous loud and brash quiz show hosted by Anthony Witson  
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zainab Badawi (Oracle)  
7.50 Comment followed by Weather  
8.00 The Black Dog: Frontier Justice.  
● CHOICE: Tonight's report in the crisp new investigative series on black and Asian issues throws light on a little known instrument of British immigration policy under the Criminals' Liability Act. Airlines can face a fine of £1,000 for bringing passengers into Britain without valid travel documents. The report claims that the measure is being used against victims of persecution who are legitimately seeking political asylum in this country. In the determination to avoid the fines, airlines are forcibly preventing asylum seekers from getting off planes at British airports and sending them back to face torture and possible death. The charge is supported by three well documented cases involving families trying to flee from Sri Lanka. The airlines pay a rough cut and to the time honoured response to investigative reporters decline to be interviewed. The Home Office spokesman suggests that many of the so-called refugees who arrive in Britain may not be genuine  
8.30 Nature Watch: Chimps in Crisis. Concluding last week's programme which highlighted the plight of chimpanzees in Zanzibar



A composer's reputation on the line: Benjamin Britten (8.00pm)

- 9.00 Without Walls: J'Accuse - Benjamin Britten.  
● CHOICE: The opera critic Tom Sutcliffe concludes the J'Accuse series of artistic debunks by snatching his knife into the reputation of Benjamin Britten. Sutcliffe asserts that far from being England's greatest 20th century composer, Britten wrote music that was anemic and loveless and showed a huge decline after the four post-war operas. Peter Grimes, Albert Herring, Billy Budd and The Turn of the Screw. He presents Britten as increasingly paranoid, unable to cope with criticism, craving respectability and shutting himself away at Aldeburgh where he could not be got at. There is a comparison for Sutcliffe's thesis from the tenor Robert Tear but Britten supporters not surprisingly are notable by their absence. The other Without Walls item is the bookish set, devoted this week to a discussion among writers on Arabia about the historical relationship between the Arab world and the West  
10.00 Eurocops: Crime On Credit. France provides the setting for this episode with Pansan coos Luc and Nicholas taking a break from their Bespokes and Baudouins to uncover a big credit card fraud  
11.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Oprah's guest, debate whether American courts should be more lenient or more severe towards offenders  
11.50 Channel 4 News - Midnight Special with Nicholas Owen. Ends at 2.00am

## TV VARIATIONS

- Under 4.45 Country Ways 5.00-5.30 Coast To Coast People  
GRANADA  
As London except: 5.00pm-5.30pm Blockbusters 5.00pm-5.30pm News 5.30-7.00pm News 7.00-7.30pm News 7.30-8.00pm News 8.00-8.30pm News 8.30-9.00pm News 9.00-9.30pm News 9.30-10.00pm News 10.00-10.30pm News 10.30-11.00pm News 11.00-11.30pm News 11.30-12.00pm News 12.00-12.30pm News 12.30-1.00pm News 1.00-1.30pm News 1.30-2.00pm News 2.00-2.30pm News 2.30-3.00pm News 3.00-3.30pm News 3.30-4.00pm News 4.00-4.30pm News 4.30-5.00pm News 5.00-5.30pm News 5.30-6.00pm News 6.00-6.30pm News 6.30-7.00pm News 7.00-7.30pm News 7.30-8.00pm News 8.00-8.30pm News 8.30-9.00pm News 9.00-9.30pm News 9.30-10.00pm News 10.00-10.30pm News 10.30-11.00pm News 11.00-11.30pm News 11.30-12.00pm News 12.00-12.30pm News 12.30-1.00pm News 1.00-1.30pm News 1.30-2.00pm News 2.00-2.30pm News 2.30-3.00pm News 3.00-3.30pm News 3.30-4.00pm News 4.00-4.30pm News 4.30-5.00pm News 5.00-5.30pm News 5.30-6.00pm News 6.00-6.30pm News 6.30-7.00pm News 7.00-7.30pm News 7.30-8.00pm News 8.00-8.30pm News 8.30-9.00pm News 9.00-9.30pm 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News 1.30-2.00pm News 2.00-2.30pm News 2.30-3.00pm News 3.00-3.30pm News



## £36m to end jail slop out years early

By QUENTIN COWDREY  
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A £36 million crash programme to end slopping out in jails in England and Wales was announced yesterday as part of the government's immediate response to the Woolf report on jail riots last year.

Within hours of the critical report being published, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, had pledged that all prisoners would have access to sanitation, day and night, by 1995, three years earlier than planned.

Prisoners would also be allowed more visits and greater access to telephones and routine censorship of inmates' mail would end for all but maximum-security offenders, Mr Baker said further reforms would be outlined in a white paper, due to be published before July, after ministers had further considered Lord Justice Woolf's 600-page study.

The report delighted penal reformers by emphasising the role poor jail conditions played in creating discontent in jails. While small groups of inmates had started most of the disturbances, thousands of others had joined in to display their anger about conditions, the report says.

Lord Justice Woolf also criticises the tactics adopted during some of the riots, particularly at Strangeways, Manchester, where he believes the disorder could have been quelled within 48 hours had Brian Ems, then deputy director of the prison service, not vetoed a plan for officers to regain control by force.

He recommends a 12-point reform package, including the creation of a code of minimum standards for jails, the placing of inmates closer to their homes and the establishment of "contracts" defining the roles of managers, governors and prisoners.

Penal reformers said last night the recommendations presented the prospect of the greatest advance in penal policy this century. "Lord Justice Woolf has recognised that riots are a result of prison systems with decent conditions, improved regimes and a respect for prisoners' rights," Ms Vivien Stern, of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said.

Poor conditions, page 9  
Rehabilitation not control, page 14



Rail attack: a 6ft gap in the north-bound track between St Albans and Radlett in Hertfordshire lying exposed yesterday after an explosion on the London Midland Railway minutes before a crowded high-speed InterCity train was due to pass. It is thought to have been the work of the Provisional IRA, in the first bomb attack on a British Rail main line. The 5.08am InterCity from Derby was halted three quarters of a mile from the explosion. Its driver discovered a gap in the line from St Pancras station. Police were alerted by Michael Easterbrook (below), assistant commander of Hertfordshire Constabulary, after a 113lb stretch of track from the line went through his garage roof, wrecking his new Citroen car.



## Eagles lay ghosts of Vietnam

Continued from page 1

attack force had already established its "Forward Base Cobra" during a week of "aggressive intelligence" when soldiers, equipped only with radios, stalked out the landing area, supplying up-to-the-minute details of the situation on the ground.

Among those taking part in the invasion were military policemen, whose role was to deal with the tens of thousands of prisoners of war expected later this week to join those who have already surrendered further south. One carried a sign reading: "Baghdad this way."

The helicopter assault was conducted in six air corridors, with dust from the Chinooks, Blackhawks and Hueys turning the sky purple.

"It is not for Kuwait any more; it is personal," explained Specialist Jamie Ryman, one of the US soldiers involved. "Saddam kept us six months from our families."

Another participant, Specialist Darrell Jeffries from Kansas City, said, just as the helicopters were poised for take off: "Guys came back from Vietnam and did not get the respect that they deserved. This one's for them."

Along the way, as the choppers bumped over the featureless desert, Major Ed Parrish an airborne ranger accompanying a helicopter supply unit into the relatively unknown, was asked to give a reason to any of those younger servicemen who might question why they were there and what they were doing.

"Let me paraphrase Henry V," the major responded in reference to Shakespeare. "Those who are home in bed this day hold their manhood cheap."

WASHINGTON: The Screaming Eagles, the Kentucky-based division, has 22

female helicopter pilots in all (Martin Fletcher writes). An unspecified number flew the giant Chinook and UH-60 Black Hawk transport helicopters that ferried not just the troops but also tons of vehicles, weaponry, fuel and ammunition to a site of an instant military staging base 50 miles inside Iraq from which US forces apparently hope to strangle Saddam Hussein's Euphrates valley supply line.

During the Panama invasion of December 1989, female American soldiers captured, almost by accident, three members of General

Manuel Noriega's Panamanian Defence Force, but Sunday's operation brought US servicemen closer to real combat than they have ever been before.

It blurred almost beyond recognition the Pentagon's thin regulatory line which says that women can serve in support but not in combat roles, though they cannot yet pilot the Apache or Cobra attack helicopters. "Women will be restricted only from skills which, by doctrine, mission or battlefield location, invite the highest probability of combat action," says the US Army rulebook.

## Americans killed in Iraqi missile attack on camp

Continued from page 1

Kuwait City early in the campaign appeared to be for two reasons: to demonstrate that the allies' objective was to free Kuwait, and to halt Iraqi atrocities in the capital. Lt General Khalid bin Sultan, the Saudi joint forces commander, said yesterday that people were being struck in the head with axes, women were being raped and mutilated, and young Iraqi soldiers were being ordered to kill

Kuwaiti children. "We hope to stop it so soon," General Khalid said, adding that those responsible would be tried as war criminals.

There was still no sign of a full-scale amphibious assault by the 30,000 American marines waiting on about 30 assault ships in the Gulf. Yesterday, it emerged that one reason for the delay was the discovery of an extensive minefield in the north of the

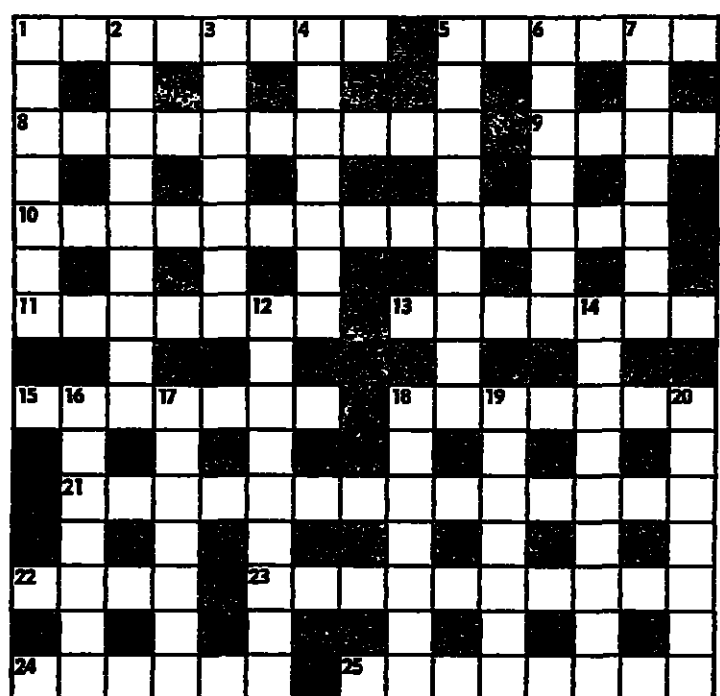
Gulf. However, as part of the preparations, marine helicopters stormed toward the Kuwait shoreline on pre-dawn reconnaissance missions designed to look like an assault. Marine sources said the crews returned with word that most of the five or six Iraqi divisions deployed there appeared to be holding their positions.

Iraq yesterday claimed that Iraqi troops had driven back allied night offensives, blast-

ing American, Saudi and Egyptian soldiers into "fragments of flesh". In previous fighting lasting eight hours, the Third Army Corps succeeded in expelling enemy forces totally from all positions held before the attack and recaptured them, a military communiqué broadcast on Baghdad radio said. Enemy forces left behind "burning tanks and vehicles and retreated in utter defeat".

Matthew Parris

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,539



- ACROSS**
- Lack support where game is involved (8).
  - Zone in which glider crashed (6).
  - Century of Scandinavian trouble and fig (6-4).
  - The extent of loud moans (4).
  - Novel can combine lust with corruption (5,4,5).
  - Act in loco parentis by leading son into temptation (4-3).
  - About to finish, the players passed to and fro (7).
  - Payment for prince, perhaps (7).
  - Fluff rattles young actress (7).
  - I know that I'm a confidant (5,7,2).
  - Making a turn, goes smartly in reverse (4).

**Solution to Puzzle No 18,538**

CASED ALCHEMIST  
O E I W A N N W  
S U P P L I A N T R U P E R  
M I T I V T A A E  
O R A N G E S P L I T T E D  
A P P R O I N T A G E T E R A  
U E A T O U R G O N G I E R  
T I C K A D M O S T E R  
O S H A D O S E  
O L I A N T A P A C H E  
E L U R O R A M  
P I E N D S I G N A T U R E  
C I E R S  
R E T R O U S E R E L E C T

- DOWN**
- Give way to founder (7).
  - Junior dogbody out of condition, sweet child! (6-3).
  - Carrying piano, pulls a muscle (7).
  - It could give out bang (7).
  - District Commissioner in Lagos to represent the old country (4,5).
  - A climber might carry it, having climbed with a friend (4-3).
  - A charge may be put on this pastille (7).
  - Where water can be found generally (2,3,4).
  - Unreadable articles from abroad about Rock (9).
  - A capital shop place (7).
  - There are no limits to the obloquy heaped upon us, old boy (7).
  - To make a saving, learned to accept a perk (7).
  - Girl gives song a rousing finish (7).
  - House covered in the finest heat-resistant tiles (7).

Concise Crossword, page 17

## WORD-PLAYING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?  
By Philip Howard

- ZAKUSKA**  
a. A far hat  
b. A Russian hors d'oeuvre  
c. A lively Polish dance
- CHURINGA**  
a. A sacred sunset  
b. The American flag  
c. A disease of horses
- PROTERVITY**  
a. Peevishness  
b. Turning one's back  
c. Lack of enthusiasm
- CURMURRING**  
a. Opposite to demagogue  
b. Bowel rumble  
c. Ball's eye at curling

Answers on page 20

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25	734
M-ways/roads M25-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.	

## WEATHER

Central and eastern parts of England will start grey and misty, but brightening later with some sunshine in places. Wales, western parts of England and eastern Scotland will have a mostly cloudy day with occasional rain. Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have some rain at first, but turning brighter, with sunny spells and a few showers. A generally mild day. Outlook: sunny spells and showers.

## TEMPERATURES

MIDDAY: 1st shower, 2nd shower, 3rd shower, 4th shower, 5th shower, 6th shower, 7th shower, 8th shower, 9th shower, 10th shower, 11th shower, 12th shower, 13th shower, 14th shower, 15th shower, 16th shower, 17th shower, 18th shower, 19th shower, 20th shower, 21st shower, 22nd shower, 23rd shower, 24th shower, 25th shower, 26th shower, 27th shower, 28th shower, 29th shower, 30th shower, 31st shower, 32nd shower, 33rd shower, 34th shower, 35th shower, 36th shower, 37th shower, 38th shower, 39th shower, 40th shower, 41st shower, 42nd shower, 43rd shower, 44th shower, 45th shower, 46th shower, 47th shower, 48th shower, 49th shower, 50th shower, 51st shower, 52nd shower, 53rd shower, 54th shower, 55th shower, 56th shower, 57th shower, 58th shower, 59th shower, 60th shower, 61st shower, 62nd shower, 63rd shower, 64th shower, 65th shower, 66th shower, 67th shower, 68th shower, 69th shower, 70th shower, 71st shower, 72nd shower, 73rd shower, 74th shower, 75th shower, 76th shower, 77th shower, 78th shower, 79th shower, 80th shower, 81st shower, 82nd shower, 83rd shower, 84th shower, 85th shower, 86th shower, 87th shower, 88th shower, 89th shower, 90th shower, 91st shower, 92nd shower, 93rd shower, 94th shower, 95th shower, 96th shower, 97th shower, 98th shower, 99th shower, 100th shower, 101st shower, 102nd shower, 103rd shower, 104th shower, 105th shower, 106th shower, 107th shower, 108th shower, 109th shower, 110th shower, 111th shower, 112th shower, 113th shower, 114th shower, 115th shower, 116th shower, 117th shower, 118th shower, 119th shower, 120th shower, 121st shower, 122nd shower, 123rd shower, 124th shower, 125th shower, 126th shower, 127th shower, 128th shower, 129th shower, 130th shower, 131st shower, 132nd shower, 133rd shower, 134th shower, 135th shower, 136th shower, 137th shower, 138th shower, 139th shower, 140th shower, 141st shower, 142nd shower, 143rd shower, 144th shower, 145th shower, 146th shower, 147th shower, 148th shower, 149th shower, 150th shower, 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# BUSINESS

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 26 1991

Business Editor  
John Bell

## Vickers warning on profits this year

# Rate cut hopes survive jump in trade deficit

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A DOWNTURN in demand for Rolls-Royce cars led to a profit warning from Vickers, the engineering group, yesterday, in spite of a 15.4 per cent pre-tax advance last year.

Sir David Plastow, the chairman, said that trading profits this year "may well be below those achieved during 1990". His words accompanied the announcement of an improvement in pre-tax profits to £96.5 million in the year to end-December. Group sales rose to £778 million.

Shares added 1p to 208p, steady by a final payout of 6.2p, bringing total dividends to 9.9p, up 11.2 per cent. Recent attention has focused on Vickers' involvement in the Gulf war, where 160 of its Challenger I tanks are in use.

Sir David said every tank crew had been visited by a Vickers engineer in the days immediately before the launch of the ground offensive.

Temps, page 25

### First Equity to be wound up

The trade department is taking legal action to wind up First Equity Insurance for carrying out insurance business in Britain unlawfully.

The High Court has appointed the Official Receiver as a provisional liquidator. The company was operating from Hove, East Sussex without authorisation. The winding up petition will be heard in April. The company was set up in 1989 in the British Virgin Islands and belonged to a Panamanian asset management company.

The department has taken action against First Equity after a secret investigation, and its insurance regulators are proposing to send details of the First Equity's activities to federal regulators in America where it also operates.

### Low & Bonar up

Low & Bonar, the Dundee packaging, plastics and textiles group, reports pre-tax profits of £25.2 million (£22.1 million) on a turnover of £310.9 million (£313.5 million) for the year ended November 30. The final dividend of 6.4p (5.85p) makes 9.1p (8.25p) for the year.

Temps, page 25

### THE POUND

US dollar 1.9225 (-0.0235)  
German mark 2.9299 (+0.0041)  
Exchange index 94.2 (-0.2)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1886.5 (+19.8)  
FT-SE 100 2335.5 (+21.2)  
New York Dow Jones 2883.17 (-6.19)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 26462.76 (+559.95)

### MAJOR CHANGES

RISSE  
Ward Group 142p (+10p)  
Grand Met 719p (+14p)  
SA Wertheim 725p (+15p)  
US: Paine Webber 420p (+13p)  
Albery Nations 21p (+1p)  
BPI Ind 22p (+11p)  
RM Douglas 415p (+75p)  
MJ Gleason 292p (+25p)  
J Lasing 299p (+10p)  
J Mowlem 320p (+10p)  
RUC Group 730p (+10p)  
Turill 97p (+11p)  
Globe 97p (+11p)  
Broken Hill 435p (+18p)  
Amaranth 351p (+10p)  
Card Group 70p (+10p)  
A Cohen 450p (+25p)

FALLS  
Rank Org 717p (-13p)  
A Kershaw 510p (-45p)  
Adrolite 259p (-45p)  
Closing prices

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 13 1/4%  
3-month interbank 12 1/4%  
3-month eligible bills 12 1/4%  
US: Prime Rate 8 1/4%  
Federal Funds 6 1/4%  
3-month Treasury Bills 5.01-5.00%  
30-year bonds 8 1/4% (8 1/2%)

### CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£ \$1.9225  
£ DM 2.9299  
£ Sfr 2.9299  
£ FF 6.5596  
£ Yen 163.33  
£ Ind 94.2  
£ SDR 10.70248  
£ ECU 47.463  
£ SDR 13.66009

### GOLD

London: 3557.50 pm-3557.85  
close 3557.75-3558.25 (185.75-186.25)  
New York: 3560.75-361.25

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) \$17.70 bid (\$17.25)  
\* denotes latest trading price  
Tourist rates appear on page 22

BRITAIN'S trade gap widened sharply to £1.23 billion in January, disappointing City and government expectations that deepening recession would deliver steady improvement in the trade balance.

But initial disappointment gave way to a more considered view, as the financial markets focused on the underlying picture, which showed a slight narrowing in the trade deficit.

With the pound at its strongest for over a month against the mark, the markets are still hoping that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, will

pare another half point off base rate, possibly this week, regardless of the trade data.

Further easing after the half point base rate cut on February 13 would put the building societies under strong pressure to undertake a general lowering of mortgage rates that could help the government's electoral fortunes.

The Central Statistical Office figures showed the deficit on visible trade widening to a seasonally adjusted £1.23 billion last month from £855 million in December. Most City economists had expected a January deficit of £800 million.

As the traditional surplus

on trade in "invisibles", such as shipping, banking and insurance, is estimated at zero since October, the January current account, the widest measure of trade, was the same as the visible deficit.

Volatile oil trade, which swung from a £119 million surplus to a £109 million deficit, and a £200 million deterioration in trade in "erratic items", this time largely precious stones, were the main factors behind the worsening in the headline trade deficit. Excluding these, the monthly deficit narrowed from £1.19 billion to £1.14 billion, the lowest since February 1987.

While the government has exhorted industry to export its way out of the recession, entry to the exchange-rate mechanism last October has led to what many exporters consider an uncompetitive pound.

Government statisticians believe exports, after impressive gains last year, are stuck on a plateau, while the underlying trend in imports is still down. The Treasury expects the current account deficit to fall to £1 billion this year from a shortfall of just over £1.6 billion in 1990.

Gordon Brown, Labour's trade and industry spokesman, said the January figures showed that Britain not only had the worst trade gap among its main European competitors, but also the highest interest rates, slowest growth and fastest rising unemployment.

The Treasury sought to underline that the current account deficit was still shrinking on a three-month basis, but the CSO figures reveal that the export performance is declining while import demand appears not to be slowing as fast as expected.

In the latest three months, the volume of exports excluding oil and erratic items, was 1 per cent down on the previous quarter, while imports were 2.5 per cent lower. Compared with the final quarter of 1989, exports were 2.5 per cent up, while imports fell 3 per cent.

In the three months to January, the visible trade deficit was £3.1 billion, little changed from the previous three months. Without oil and erratic items, there was a fall of £700 million.

Comment, page 25

## Shares and dollar rally after allied advances in Gulf

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

SHARES in London and the rest of Europe rose in response to allied ground success in the Gulf but later ran out of steam after a strong opening rally in Wall Street lost momentum.

The dollar responded well to the allied advances but oil and gold barely moved.

In London the FT-SE 100 index achieved its highest close of the year, ending 21.2 points up at 2,335.5. Its previous highest this year was 2,318.3 on February 18.

The French CAC-40 share index finished at 1,745.17, a jump of 28.29 points and its highest close since August 10, when it ended at 1,779.83.

In Frankfurt the 30-share DAX index ended 18.63 points higher at 1,601.15, the highest close since 1,629.51 on September 3, but well below a new 1991 intraday high of 1,612.79 recorded early in the session.

Some dealers said the market was acting as though peace had already been declared, ignoring other potential problems such as high German wage claims and the high cost of German unification.

Similar concerns weighed on the mark in foreign exchange markets, pushing it down against the dollar which finished in London at

DM1.5220 and Y133.30, up from Friday's close at DM1.4960 and Y131.65.

Apart from worries over the German economy, dealers said some investors would avoid the mark because of concern that Germany was not participating fully in the allied war effort.

Gold bullion ended at \$358.25 an ounce, slightly below Friday's close at \$359. Silver again touched its 17-year low and closed at 357 cents an ounce, down 3 cents.

The April futures contract for North Sea Brent, the international crude oil benchmark, stood around \$16.95 a barrel, up 33 cents, in early evening trading on London's International Petroleum Exchange.

Oil traders believe prices may fall sharply to around \$12 a barrel after an allied victory in the Gulf.

But stock-market investors remain in bullish mood, having seen the equity market rise by more than 13 per cent since the start of the year. Yesterday, despite another disappointing set of trade figures, prices soon gathered momentum and by the close 536 million shares had been traded.

## Saab-Scania shares sought

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

PETER Wallenberg, the Swedish investor, is offering Kr12.8 billion (£1.16 billion) for the remaining shares in Saab-Scania, the car-to-aero-space company, in a bid to take the company private.

The bid, Kr300 a share, has been launched by Mr Wallenberg's investor and Providence investment vehicles. He already controls more than 50 per cent of the votes.

Mr Wallenberg said that the deal was motivated by a desire to keep the aerospace part of the company Swedish.

Saab Automobile, its car making subsidiary, is 51 per cent owned by General Motors of America, and this arrangement will not be affected by the deal.

Speaking in Stockholm, Mr Wallenberg said: "The acquisition is an expression of our wish to stabilise the ownership and our long-term involvement in Saab-Scania."

On Thursday Saab-Scania is due to announce a substantial increase in earnings last year against Kr1.6 billion in 1989. Saab Automobile made a Kr3.25 billion loss before extraordinary items last year. Saab-Scania's cash flow is also expected to help Mr Wallenberg's investment companies but this stands against the high

price paid for the Saab-Scania shares. The deal values Saab at about Kr20.4 billion, or 59 per cent of turnover.

Philip Wylie, motor analyst at Salomon Brothers, the American investment bank, said: "This is a very good valuation if you compare it to the equivalent businesses of Volvo, which is valued on only about 10 per cent of turnover."

Shares in Saab-Scania were suspended before the announcement. The A-shares closed on Friday at Kr220, and the B-shares at Kr215, against yesterday's offer price of Kr300.

## Retail group reveals details of £172m extraordinary charges

# Next warns about £222m loss

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

NEXT, the retail group, said its loss for the year to end-January 1991 could be as high as £222 million, compared with last year's £27.8 million profit.

In a circular to shareholders detailing the disposal of Grattan, the mail order business, to Ono-Versand, the German group, Next says there will be extraordinary charges totalling £172 million. The group had exceptional costs of £73.1 million last year and the City believed it had seen the worst.

Shareholders are warned that without the Grattan disposal, Next would be in breach of its financial covenants. The circular said: "The board believes that in such circumstances, the future financial stability of the group would be at risk and shares



Jones consultancy role holders' interests could be materially disadvantaged."

Otto is offering £140 million for Grattan, less than book value, leading to a £95 million extraordinary charge. There will be a further £49 million of

extraordinary charges for anticipated loss on the property disposal, £8 million for deferred tax and computer costs, £7 million for the loss connected with the reversion of Easthope & Co, the jewellery arm, and £13 million for other discontinued activities.

Next is making a £33 million provision for its investment in the Club 24 credit business, and this is expected to lead to a pre-tax loss for the group of not more than £40 million. The loss after tax but before extraordinary items is expected to be £50 million or the equivalent of a loss of 13.6p a share.

Sir David Wolfson, Next's chairman, said in the circular that the disposal of Grattan was the best way to strengthen the group's balance sheet. He also revealed that there was



Granddaughter of founder: Georgina Andrews

## Daks Simpson sold to Japanese group

By OUR CITY STAFF

DAKS Simpson, the retail group best known for its English sporting look, is to be sold to the Japanese group Sanryo Seiko for £65 million in cash in an agreed deal.

Georgina Andrews, granddaughter of Simeon Simpson, the group's founder, will receive £19.4 million for her stake in the business.

Mrs Andrews, the wife of Anthony Andrews, the actor who epitomises the Daks look, has 51 per cent of the ordinary shares and 8 per cent of the non-voting A shares. The deal values the ordinary shares at £33.06 each and the A shares at \$85.5p, representing a premium of 69.5 per cent and 75.8 per cent respectively over the market price. The cumulative preference shares are valued at 75p each.

Sanryo, one of the largest clothing manufacturers and textile traders in Japan, has received irrevocable undertakings to accept the offer from shareholders representing 65.3 per cent of the ordinary shares and 16.8 per cent of the A shares. The directors are recommending shareholders to accept the bid.

The offer represents an exit multiple of 24.4 times earnings on last year's results. Daks' pre-tax profits for the year to July 1990 fell from £5.3 million to £4.16 million.

The group's net assets were £22.8 million.

Daks has had an association with Sanryo for 20 years and the Japanese group is Daks' principle licensee in Japan.

Touch of class, page 25

## Eagle Star to report early to calm loan exposure fears

By NEIL BENNETT

EAGLE Star, the insurance subsidiary of BAT Industries, is to announce its results three weeks early to calm the City's fears about its exposure to property loan guarantees.

The company will publish its figures for 1990 on Thursday. The figures are expected to include provisions of up to £275 million against the property loan indemnity policies.

These policies insured banks and building societies' against losses on loans to commercial and residential property developments in a foreclosure. The number of claims has been rising steeply in the past six months because of the collapse in property values.

A spokesman for Eagle Star said the change of date was to ensure the company reported results alongside other composite insurers. Commercial Union, General Accident and Royal Insurance all publish figures this week.

"The figures will stop the speculation on our financial position," said the spokesman. "We feel we will be reporting from a position of financial strength."

He confirmed that Eagle Star was challenging three indemnity claims, worth between £10 and £40 million, but that the company could meet all its claims if necessary. "The stability of Eagle Star is not an issue here," he said.

The insurer is investigating the claims because it believes the properties may have been overvalued originally. "If there has been a material non-disclosure, we will not pay," said the spokesman. Eagle Star has already paid indemnity claims of £50 million, including £10 million to service the debts of some property companies to prevent banks foreclosing on them.

Senior executives at Eagle Star are said to have had an informal meeting with insurance regulators from the trade department several weeks ago to reassure them of their liquidity in the face of the claims.

Eagle Star has a £350 million exposure to residential developments and a £750 million exposure to commercial property, although half of

this is reinsured. The company also has a substantial exposure to domestic mortgage indemnities, but the spokesman said claims on these are still small.

The insurer began the year with provisions of £135 million against the policies. When it announced results for the nine months to end-September, it said these were likely to increase to £225 million by the year end, but the further deterioration in the property market is thought to have forced it to raise the provisions to about £275 million.

## Net assets fall 15% at CapCo

By MATTHEW BOND

NET assets at Capital & Counties, Britain's seventh largest property company, fell 15 per cent to £687 million in the year to end-December, as the slide in commercial property values continued.

Pre-tax profits at the company, which is 73 per cent owned by South African backed Transatlantic Holdings, rose 3 per cent to £53 million. The total dividend was up 10 per cent to 13.2p (12p) after the final dividend was increased to 7.2p (6.75p).

Of the £55.5 million total interest bill, the company capitalised £50.2 million on to the cost of properties under development. The biggest of these is a shopping centre at Thurrock, Essex, which has already cost £352 million. The Thurrock centre has not been revalued because it is not yet more than 80 per cent let.

Ray Moorman, the managing director, was confident that it would produce a surplus when it was revalued.

The value of the group's investment properties fell 15 per cent to £599 million. In Australia yesterday, the company announced the sale of its interest in Capocourt Property Trust for about £40 million.

Temps, page 25

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Times 3







## Labour strikes a chord with business

British business used to have a simple reply when faced with the question asking what the Labour party could do to help industry: lose the election. That the party's new industrial policy document, launched yesterday, is likely to strike a resonant chord with business is a measure of how far Labour has come.

Labour party leaders like Gordon Brown, who handles industry, and Tony Blair, responsible for training issues, spent a substantial part of last year on what Labour called Industry 2000. What Labour did in closed sessions around the country with leading industrialists and in the series of boardroom lunches and meetings which have filled the diaries of Messrs Brown, Blair and John Smith, the shadow chancellor, was to listen to what industry wanted from a government. Leaving aside immediate considerations like interest rate cuts or a more favourable tax climate, the message was clear.

British industry is not happy with this government. Not because it is ideologically or operationally opposed to it: it is

not. But because business feels it has no friend at court, nobody pushing its case inside government. Sections of industry are not confident that this government understands it or regards it with anything much beyond the suspicion it has for special interest groups.

Restructuring at the trade and industry department, for instance — the abandonment, not much mourned, of picking winners — has a clear downside. There are few civil servants now who have much detailed, up-to-date knowledge about the way individual industries are running. The restriction of the role of the DTI by Peter Lilley, the current industry secretary, to promoting competition has done nothing to reduce industry's sense of governmental isolation.

Private-sector companies provide the greater proportion of UK output and employment and they feel they should have some leverage with government. What

industry does not want, though, is also clear: it is not looking for any return to the centralism of the last Labour government. The spectre of planning agreements, of Bullock trade unionists on the board, of whole industries being run from Whitehall, is a nightmare to which business does not want to go back.

The crucial question to be asked about the Labour party's document, *Modern Manufacturing Strength*, is how far it manages to balance these aims. Can it really reject the extremes of both an unfettered free market and a statist command economy and yet weld together strands from both? Labour claims it can. It is offering partnership, not planning — a partnership which, as the document puts it, will be "enabling not dirigiste, decentralist not bureaucratic". This is

clearly closer to what industry does want from government. Whether it wants what Labour wants in return, including intervention in a range of areas, including training, research and development, marketing, regional aid and long-term investment, is considerably less clear. But Labour's new pitch to business will be examined with genuine interest.

### Hard choices

Yesterday's terrible trade figures had precious little impact on the markets; but, in time, the message will sink in. In all their years of longing for a return to fixed exchange rates in the European Monetary System, the Treasury, the CBI and their intellectual supporters in the

City, forgot about the main reason why the pound was originally allowed to float. Until the last decade, the balance of payments was the over-riding constraint on the British economy. With freely floating currencies, the fundamental cause of any trade deficit, which is a lack of export competitiveness at the prevailing exchange rate, revealed itself through a new symptom — inflation. But anyone who remembers the sterling crises of the Sixties and Seventies will know that the balance of payments was just as painful to deal with as the inflation which subsequently replaced it as public enemy number one.

The last month's trade figures included all kinds of distortions, but in terms of the moving averages favoured by the official statisticians, their message was clear. The big improvement in Britain's trade performance is over and no further significant reduction in the deficit is in sight.

This means that a permanent "balance of payments problem" of around £12bn annually should be considered a fact of life.

But why is a deficit a "problem"? As long as it can be financed by borrowing abroad or selling assets to foreigners, the deficit is actually a benefit to Britain, since it allows us to consume and invest more than we produce. This was the Nigel Lawson-Ronald Reagan approach to international economics. Like the domestic policies of the yuppie era, this theory contained a fatal flaw. At some point, foreign lenders lose their nerve as they see a country's debt levels rising and further borrowing becomes impossible, except at cripplingly high interest rates.

The country is faced with an old-fashioned choice between squeezing its imports through recession or devaluing the currency. The advocates of the newly fashionable semi-fixed exchange rates believe that balance of payments crises are a barbarous relic of economic prehistory. Time will tell.

RARELY since 1940 has a British manufacturer played such an active role in the frontline as that taken by Vickers in the Gulf war.

Sir David Plastow, the chairman, has a special reason for wanting his Challenger 1 tanks to perform well against the Iraqis. Last week, the defence ministry again put off deciding whether to buy 300 Vickers Challenger II tanks, at £2 million apiece, in preference to Abrams, the American rival.

Less than a year ago, Sir David's battle was with Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur. Vickers shares have added 15p since Sir Ron sold out after shareholders defeated his break-up plans.

The uncertainties overhanging the company, however, have multiplied. Chief among them is the slump in sales of Rolls-Royce cars, hence the profit warning.

In the year to end-December, Rolls chipped in perhaps £30 million at the trading level, powering a 15.4 per cent rise in group pre-tax profits to £96.5 million, but the market for luxury cars in Britain and America has weakened abruptly for the first time in 20 years.

Three acquisitions, including Cosworth, the engine builder, and Riva, in speedboats, have reinforced Vickers' portfolio of engineering brands. Performance by the marine propulsion division is improving, and medical systems should recover this year from a slightly sickly 1990.

Predictions for this year's pre-tax profit range from £80 million to £88 million. On this basis, the shares, 1p firmer at 208p, yield between 6.5 and 6.7 per cent and sell for anywhere between nine and ten times prospective earnings.

Vickers is unengaged, and has considerable ability to generate cash. The shares are up with events, but remain promising in the longer term.

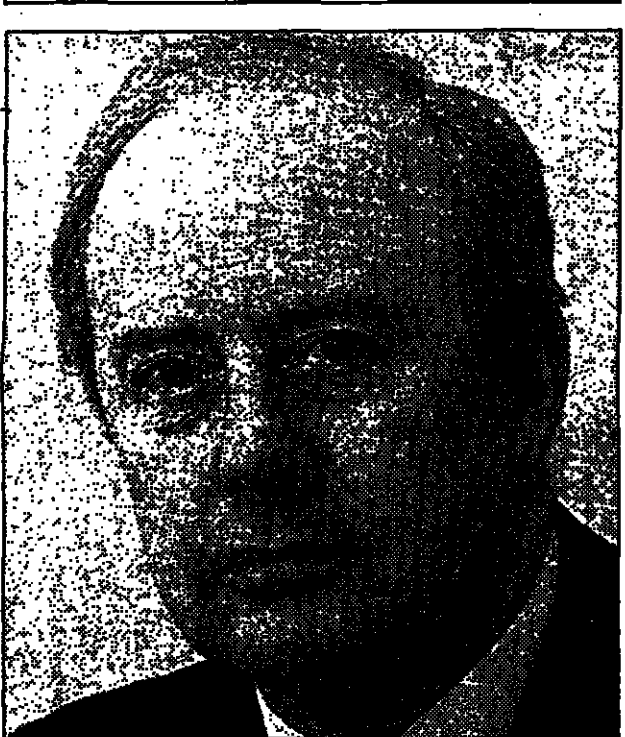
**Low & Bonar**

LOW & Bonar managed to buck difficult trading conditions in the year to end-November and succeeded in avoiding any disasters in the currency markets.

Having turned in pre-tax profits of £25.2 million for the

## Fall in luxury car sales adds to Vickers' uncertainties

TEMPUS



Jarvis: Canada accounted for 28 per cent of profits

year compared with £22.1 million, and having improved margins on a turnover that eased from £313.5 million to £310.9 million, Low & Bonar may find the current year a little tougher.

Roland Jarvis, chief executive, reports that Canada accounted for 28.3 per cent of pre-interest profits last year. With sterling already up 13 per cent against the Canadian currency this year, translation could put exchange rate hurdles in Low and Bonar's path.

The modest, but not unexpected, losses within the

British plastics interests last year should, however, soon be turned round, and while the bottom may have fallen out of the British floorcoverings market, exports are improving and partly compensating.

Capital spend on new capacity and products, at £25 million last year, will ease back to about £20 million this year. The balance sheet, meanwhile, remains sound with gearing down from 18 per cent to 12 per cent, and interest cover still healthy.

Significant shareholdings are held by Tomkins with 4.7

per cent, Confederation Life with 7 per cent, and the John Govett investment trust group with 8 per cent.

Low & Bonar's pre-tax profits could reach £26 million this year, to put the shares at 207p, up 11p yesterday, on a prospective price earnings multiple of 10.4.

The shares, in current uncertain markets, remain worth holding.

### Capital & Counties

THE latest results from Capital & Counties show its real-estate portfolio portfolio feeling the full force of the high street recession. Completed investment properties fell in value by 15 per cent to £599 million; its flagship regional shopping centre at Thurrock was not sufficiently let to allow it to be revalued; and problems in the development of a shopping centre at Bromley were largely and unexpectedly responsible for £58.7 million of provisions.

The pain is not confined to retail property. Factors contributing to the fall in net assets per share from 534p to 452p include a 14 per cent fall in the value of London offices and a 19 per cent reduction in the value of City office space. Add in £50 million of capitalised interest (compared to pretax profits of £53 million) and gearing of 66 per cent and a nasty picture begins to emerge.

And yet, Capco is a very special breed of stock market animal, backed as it is by Liberty Life of South Africa, which through Transatlantic holds 73 per cent of the equity. Liberty Life gives Capco the financial muscle to succeed where others might fail, a fact reflected in the increased final dividend of 7.2p (6.75p), which gives a 10 per cent increase in the total distribution of 13.2p (12p).

Capco, where costs will approach £400 million before the big development is finally valued. Lakeside's future upside is likely to be countered by further downfalls elsewhere in the company's portfolio. At 299p, the shares are on a 34 per cent discount to net asset value and look fairly valued.

## Daks a touch of class for Japan

THE Japanese have always liked Simpson of Piccadilly, the flagship store of the DAKS Simpson group. At one point last year there were 12 Japanese shop assistants working in the London department store, and the sushi bar, developed for a one-week Japanese promotion, is now a permanent feature.

Yesterday the Japanese group Sankyo Seiko declared it liked DAKS Simpson so much it was buying the whole company for £65 million in cash. Sankyo has the funds to develop the DAKS name further in Japan as well as in America.

The deal is reminiscent of the Japanese group Renown's £73.8 million bid for Aquascutum, the fashion retailer, last April. In August Jusco, the Japanese retail group, took a 15 per cent stake in Laura Ashley for £30 million and any luxury retailer worth his wares now has a joint venture

with a Japanese retail group. The Japanese, who for the last 18 months have been keeping Bond Street alive, are known as the New Americans. Private consumption in Japan grew steadily in 1989-90 supported by the continued strong growth of real disposable income. Gross domestic product per head in Japan in 1988 was \$23,235, compared with \$14,413 in the United Kingdom.

Backed by the strength of the yen and clutching their Louis Vuitton suitcases, they have arrived in Europe to indulge their love of top quality branded goods on an individual, and increasingly, a corporate level.

Aquascutum and DAKS Simpson, with their English upper class style, are particularly popular in Japan and DAKS has had a 20-year licensing agreement with Sankyo Seiko, one of the largest clothing manufacturers and textile traders in Japan. Burberry, part of Great Universal Stores, is another Japanese favourite as are Mappin & Webb and Dunhill. More than 40 per cent of Dunhill's sales come from the Pacific basin.

Want to establish a foothold. Japanese companies that have licensing agreements with British groups are moving to protect their interests. British companies are particularly liked by the Japanese because of the country's affinity with Britain dating back to the 19th century, says Mr Sugiyama. In Japanese schools English is the first foreign language learned. Even so the number of Japanese executives who speak fluent English is still small and the new Japanese owners of DAKS and Aquascutum have made no changes to the management of the groups.

The strength of the Japanese stock market, where companies trade on exceptionally high earnings multiples, means that Renown could pay 38 times earnings for Aquascutum and still not dilute its own earnings.

In addition the Japanese are worried they will be locked out of Europe after 1992 and

any luxury retailer worth his wares now has a joint venture with a Japanese retailer

Hitoshi Sugiyama, a senior vice-president of Mitsubishi Bank, says the relatively new phenomenon of Japanese companies buying British groups with strong retail brands has come about because the Japanese market has become saturated and deals are now difficult to do at home.

In addition the Japanese are worried they will be locked out of Europe after 1992 and

GILLIAN BOWDITCH

## Seventh successive year of earnings growth

### Vickers Preliminary Results for 1990

Pre-tax profits increased by 15.4% to £96.5m.

Earnings per share increased for the seventh successive year, giving a compound growth rate over the period of 25.1%.

Recommended final net dividend of 6.2p, makes a total of 9.9p for the year, up 11.2%.

Recent acquisitions — Ross Catherall, Cantieri Riva and Cosworth — performed ahead of targets.

A successful year for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, including doubled retail sales in Japan.

Vickers Defence Systems delivered 9 prototypes of the Challenger 2 main battle tank on time, on cost and to full specification. CRARRV (Challenger Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle) was accepted into service.

RESULTS IN BRIEF (£M)		
	1990	1989
Turnover	778.1	695.7
Profit before taxation	96.5	83.6
Shareholders' profit	64.7	180.7
Dividends	(26.3)	(23.4)
Profit retained	38.4	157.3
Earnings per 50p Ordinary Share	26.9p	23.3p



Marine Engineering Division produced very acceptable progress and profitability, with product development maintaining the Vickers worldwide quality reputation.

1990 was a disappointing year for the Medical Division, but regulatory approval of new products should produce an improvement in 1991.

Looking ahead, Sir David Plastow, Chairman and Chief Executive, said: "Your Company has a strong balance sheet and a broadly-based range of products in different markets. Vickers is therefore well placed to benefit from improved trading conditions when business confidence returns. However, I must warn shareholders that trading profits for 1991 may well be below those achieved in 1990."

**Vickers**  
Engineering success

The final dividend on Ordinary Shares, if approved, will be paid on 10 May 1991 to Shareholders on the Register at 11 April 1991. The full Report and Accounts will be posted to Shareholders on 25 March 1991 and the Annual General Meeting will be held at 12 noon on 25 April 1991 at Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4RA.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Flush feeling for Phelan

JOHN Phelan, popular former head of the New York Stock Exchange, has received a golden handshake of which many a top banker would be proud. Phelan, who stepped down as chairman and chief executive last year after 25 years in the securities industry, has been given a retirement package worth \$10 million. The size of the payment has surprised traders on Wall Street, coming in the midst of cost cuts by the NYSE, which has just shed 350 employees, nearly a fifth of its staff, through early retirement and redundancies. Late last year the NYSE froze executive salaries, while Phelan was calling for careful management of costs and resources. Phelan, aged 59, who has joined the board of Merrill Lynch, was made vice-chairman of the NYSE in 1975 and was earning \$1 million a year when he retired. NYSE officials refuse to confirm the size of the payment, saying retirement packages are worked out using a formula that applies to all employees.

### Soar-ing higher

THE fast-growing world of exhibitions has caught the eye of Philip Soar, publishing

entrepreneur and author, whose literary efforts include the *Encyclopedia of British Football* and *Arsenal 1886-1986*, both best sellers. Soar has been appointed group managing director of Blenheim Group, the largest exhibition and conference group in the world. As head of the British end for the past year, he has been eagerly courting City institutions, and is hoping to reap the rewards. "I am a classic working class boy from the North," says Soar, aged 43, who was born in Nottingham, but now divides his time between Britain and America, where he ran the Marshall Cavendish publishing group in the early Eighties. "I married a New Yorker and have a wonderful home in

Tampa overlooking the Gulf of Mexico." Blenheim, one of the most acquisitive stocks in the late Eighties, has seen turnover soar — forgive the pun — from just under £5 million in 1985 to an estimated £120 million this year. Profits may follow suit.

OUR mention of the Bristol Corn Exchange last week has stirred up a lively debate over the origin of the phrase "cash on the nail". The nails in question are actually cast pedestal type circular tables with flat tops and raised rims with inscriptions around the edges. Merchants settled their debts by placing their coins on the table top, hence coining the phrase.

### Fear of flying

FEW people were more relieved to see the £65 million agreed bid for Daks Simpson by Sankyo Seiko go through than David Cohen, director of corporate broking at Robert Fleming, who led the negotiations between the two clothing groups. Cohen, aged 49, found it difficult to persuade the Japanese executives involved to fly to London after the outbreak of the Gulf war. "I told them London was as safe as anywhere in the world," he says. "They thought we were being bombed by hit squads." Cohen, who joined Flemings a

year ago from Chase Manhattan, where he was director of new business development, says the visit was days before the Downing Street attack. "If they had been over at the time, they probably would have offered me £5 million and told me to forget the deal," says Cohen.

### Building confidence

TAKING the recession in their stride, nearly 600 senior managers and directors from the building industry gathered at the Guildhall in the City tonight for a glittering annual dinner, hosted by the Chartered Institute of Building. The guest speaker at the white tie and tails affair, appropriately in these hard times, is Michael Howard, secretary of state for employment, who is expected to have few comforting words for his hosts. The choice of speaker is symbolic since the institute, bowing to requests from its 32,000 members, has, for the first time in its 153 year history, published a guide to coping with redundancy. Surprisingly, most requests for the pack seem to be coming not from lowly members of the building profession, but from highly qualified directors who, one would think, would at least know how to apply for a job.

JON ASHWORTH



**THE TIME**

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 4% 2% 1.000  
 6% 4% 1.000

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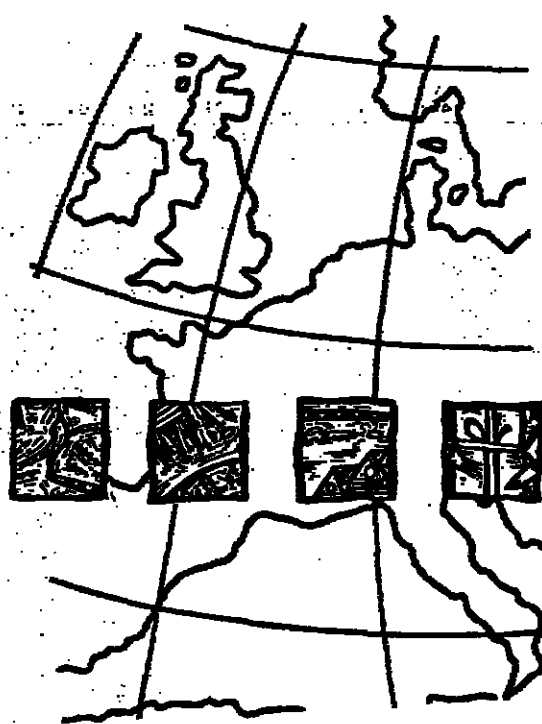
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For general information, telephone Jon Young, Director of Personnel, on 071 320 6017. CVs should be sent to him at Five Chancery Lane, Clifford's Inn, London EC4A 3BU and will be handled in confidence.

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## CHAMBERS &amp; PARTNERS

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## A Tightening Market

Adverse changes in the job-market last year brought to an end a six year period of extraordinary career mobility within the legal profession. Between 1983 and 1990 lawyers were in such demand that they could move with relative ease at virtually all levels of seniority. Even at partnership level - where traditionally one was ensconced for life - people came to accept the idea of moving around.

We are now having to adjust to a harsher environment. Employers are being offered a wider range of candidates and are therefore being more precise as to their requirements. They will now tell us, for instance, that they want a four-year-qualified litigator. Not three years, not five years, only four. Some will insist on a 2.1 degree, or on certain grades at 'A' level. We do what we can to persuade them to see other candidates who write us as ideal for their vacancy, and we often succeed, but nevertheless they are becoming much more particular.

What this means in general terms is that employers are tending to emphasise their preference for younger lawyers with, say, one to four years' experience. Alternatively, if they are looking at more senior candidates they tend nowadays to prefer lawyers with a following. Fortunately, there are many exceptions. We are still being notified of vacancies outside these requirements. But we are having to work much harder to get interviews for candidates who, twelve months ago, would have been snapped up within days.

Michael Chambers

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c £35,000 + car  
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## Commercial Property: West End

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## Pensions Law: Birmingham

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## Co/Commercial: Kent

Solicitor, NQ-2 yrs, sought by well-respected firm to assist with variety of work. c£20,000 pa.

## Commercial Property: Holborn

Healthy property practice seeks dynamic young solicitor for development work. Training offered.

## Partner Designate: Manchester

Exciting opportunity for senior solicitor to head specialist defendant P.I. dept. Excellent salary.

## Private Client: City

1-2 yr qual solicitor with probate/trust/inheritance tax experience for busy dept. c£30,000 pa.

## Matrimonial: Beds or Kent

Successful firm seeks matrimonial specialist. Excellent prospects. c£25,000.

## Property Lawyer: Isle of Man

Dynamic commercial firm seeks solicitor, 1-5 yrs qual, for res & com property. c£27,000 pa.

## Commercial Litigation: Central London

NQ-1 yr qual with large-firm background for leading commercial practice. £22-27,000 pa.

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For an application form please telephone Karen Brown on 071-227 3762 or write to her at Central Personnel, London Transport, 55 Broadway, London SW1H 0BD, quoting reference CDV 229. Closing date: 12th March 1991.



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DEBT RECOVERY - Prominent South Wales practice requires fully qualified legal executive to assist with debt recovery. Interview: 071 242 1281 (24hrs).

PRIVATE and trust Executive required by established large practice. Interview: 071 242 1281 (24hrs).

PRIVATE CLIENT - Solicitor with 20% exp for well known City practice. Interview: 071 242 1281 (24hrs).



Iraqi and Palestinian civilians detained in the UK have been given fewer rights than Iraqi prisoners of war and would be better off under internment.

The Home Office, the defence ministry and the prison department are applying different parts of the law. The government has been criticised by lawyers and human-rights groups for contravening international law standards, to the embarrassment of the Foreign Office.

Larry Grant, a solicitor, is critical of the treatment of his clients who are POWs. The Home Office has decided to deport about 30 Iraqi students under immigration law, believing they are military personnel whose presence in Britain is not conducive to the public good. They have now been handed over to the defence ministry as POWs.

Mr Grant says: "There are grave doubts about the Home Office decision to deport. The only reason for it is that they were on a list of military given to the Home Office by the Iraqi embassy."

One case of mistaken identity has already been discovered and the man has been released, and two cases are being investigated this week.

The ministry now holds the Iraqis under the Royal Prerogative, in lieu of any statutory power. As military personnel they are protected by the Third Geneva Convention, which is normally used where enemy soldiers are captured by advancing forces. Any doubts about their status have

# Rough justice for Iraqi detainees

## LEGAL BRIEF

**Iraqi civilians in British jails would be better off under internment or held as POWs. Is the law being abused, asks Marie Staunton**

to be resolved in favour of giving protection to POW status. However, these men were not picked up by the military and object to being classed as POWs. Army lawyers have reversed the burden of proof and decided to release any Iraqi over whose status they have doubts, citing the need to respect the men's "human rights and liberty".

A board of enquiry under the Army Act 1955, consisting of military personnel, will hear disputed cases. The men are told the case against them and are allowed legal aid and legal representation. Only the army can refer cases to the board, but Major-General David Selwood, the director of army legal services, says: "You can be sure that if there



Released: Abbas Cheblak failed to win a judicial review, then was freed. But how will the less well-educated fare?

is the slightest doubt there will be a board of enquiry."

Civilian detainees are treated worse. Some are required only to report regularly to the police. Others are detained and face deportation under the Immigration Act 1971 for reasons of national security. They were first held as unconvicted prisoners under the prison rules, but according to a former detainee and Palestinian writer,

Abbas Cheblak, conditions improved after the Red Cross intervention. The prisoners were treated as protected persons under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The controversial procedure for determining such cases involves a hearing before "three wise men", but does not allow the individuals to know the cases against them or to be legally represented.

Amnesty International says the procedure falls below the Body of Principles for the Protection of all Persons under any Form of Detention or Imprisonment adopted by the United Nations in 1988, to which Britain is a party. This covers administrative detention, as well as that imposed by a court, and gives a right to legal counsel.

On February 7 the Court of Appeal refused Mr Cheblak's application for judicial review of the process. He was freed after six character witnesses gave evidence to the panel. Other detainees have been limited to one witness.

Mr Cheblak's solicitor, Jane Coker, was told by the former chair of the panel, Lord Justice Lloyd, that the panel is not a legal appeal but acts more like a French *juge d'instruction* and may question evidence in a way that cannot be done in public by seeing

what detainees say in the light of what it knows.

Ms Coker says the procedure is "a negation of justice" and still does not know whether it had more than a summary of evidence against her client. She has asked the panel that detainees be allowed to call witnesses, to cross-examine, to have family and a legal representative present and to be told the case against them, except what the panel feels has to be withheld in the interests of national security.

Detainees found to be a threat to national security after the panel hearing still resist deportation. Under the Fourth Geneva Convention, the civilians are protected persons and the detaining power has a duty to keep them safe, not to return them to a war zone.

What then? Internment? Oddly, these civilians would be better off because under internment their cases would be reviewed twice a year and they would not be in danger of deportation.

Under principle 32 of the UN Body of Principles they would have the right to challenge the lawfulness of detention without delay and the right to legal counsel.

The anomalies exist because the law is being stretched beyond its purpose. The Immigration Act, for example, was meant for people who

committed an act detrimental to the public good, rather than to the people who found their status changed because the allies used force to oust President Saddam Hussein.

The Geneva conventions were not set up to deal with a situation where POWs and civilians in the territory of a belligerent resist return to their own country.

Does all this matter? President Saddam has breached the rules by using civilians as "shields", by parading POWs and by refusing access to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

This matters because of the reasons for which we are in this conflict: to uphold the United Nations and the rule of international law. We must therefore be scrupulous in upholding these laws ourselves. The propaganda war is an important part of the present conflict and treating detainees unfairly, even having them adopted as prisoners of conscience, will be another own goal.

The treatment of detainees at this time is too important to be left to the ingenuity of lawyers in the Home Office, the defence ministry and the Foreign Office to stretch the existing and sometimes inappropriate statutes.

Parliament needs to consider the law, the requirement for a fair hearing and the need to pass new and specific legislation.

The author, formerly the director of the British section of Amnesty International, is the editor of *Solicitors' Journal*.

## Law Report February 26 1991 Court of Appeal

### Tenants lose statutory claim for relief after landlords re-enter premises

**Bilson and Others v Residential Apartments Ltd**  
Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Nicholls

[Judgment February 11]

Where landlords peaceably re-entered demised premises after breach by the tenants of a covenant against alterations and remained in possession, albeit for a matter of hours, before the tenants regained possession, the statutory power to grant the tenants relief against forfeiture was lost, since it could not thereafter be said that the landlords, in seeking an order for possession, were proceeding to enforce their rights under section 146(2) of the Law of Property Act 1925.

Moreover, the right to relieve the tenant from forfeiture in such circumstances, the breach

being wilful, could no longer be found in any inherent equitable jurisdiction, since, apart from the case of breach of a covenant for non-payment, that right was exclusively the province of statute.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority, Lord Justice Nicholls dissenting in part, when dismissing an appeal by the tenants, Residential Apartments Ltd, against the order of Mr Justice Mummery made on February 16, 1990 whereby he granted the landlords, Bilson and others, possession of 17 Gledhow Gardens, East's Court, London.

In May 1989, the tenants took from the then lessee an assignment of the lease, which contained a covenant against alteration or addition without the written consent of the landlords, in consideration of the payment of £280,000.

They immediately embarked upon major works of reconstruction in order to convert the furnished accommodation into self-contained flats, the landlords' consent having been neither sought nor given. The works were completed in August 1989 at a cost of between £260,000 and £375,000.

Meanwhile the landlords, having made repeated but unsuccessful attempts to persuade the tenants to submit an application for written consent, had on July 4, 1989 served on the tenants a notice under section 146 of the 1925 Act, specifying breach of the covenant against alterations and requesting the defendants within a reasonable time to remedy the said breaches in so far as they are capable of remedy.

On July 10 the tenants' former solicitors, who did not act for the tenants in the subsequent proceedings, sent the landlords a counter-notice alleging, *inter alia*, that the works were improvements adding substantially to the value of the property and that consent to the work was being unreasonably withheld by the landlords.

On July 18 at 6am agents for the landlords peaceably re-entered the property, which was vacant, and changed the locks. By 10am on the same day the tenants' workmen regained possession of the premises.

On July 19 the plaintiffs issued a writ claiming possession. The tenants denied that they were in breach of covenant and that the landlords had determined the lease by peaceable re-entry, and counterclaimed for relief against forfeiture.

That contention flowed from the wording of section 146(2) of the 1925 Act, which conferred the statutory jurisdiction to relieve from forfeiture where a lessor is proceeding by action or otherwise, to enforce such a

right of re-entry or forfeiture. It had been established by the Court of Appeal decisions for nearly 100 years that once a landlord had obtained possession of the premises under order of the court, the statutory right to relieve the tenant against forfeiture was lost, since it could not thereafter be said that the lessor was proceeding to enforce his rights: he had proceeded: *Rogers v Rice* [1892] 2 Ch 170, *Quiller v Mapleson* (1882) 9 QBD 672.

Mr Driscoll contended that those cases did not cover a case such as that under consideration where the landlord had not obtained possession under order of the court but by peaceable re-entry. He submitted that in that case the landlord, having gained lost possession, was proceeding to enforce his right of re-entry by seeking possession under order of the court.

His Lordship had great sympathy with that contention and had it not been for authority, would have upheld it. Where the lessor had not obtained an order of the court, in any proceedings between him and the former tenant the lessor was forced to rely on his right of re-entry to justify his possession.

It did not seem to his Lordship an undue straining of language to say that, by such means, he was proceeding to enforce such a right of re-entry or forfeiture. But in his judgment, whether or not the House of Lords might think that such reasoning was correct, it was not open to the Court of Appeal so to hold.

In his Lordship's judgment it was an essential step in the reasoning in *Parkwood Transport Ltd v 15 Beauchamp Place Ltd* (1978) 245 EG 309 that, after peaceable re-entry, there was no statutory right to relief from forfeiture. Accordingly, that proposition was part of the *ratio decidendi* of the case and it was binding upon the court.

Mr Driscoll had submitted that, even if there was no statutory jurisdiction to grant relief against forfeiture, relief could be granted under the old equitable jurisdiction of the court.

His Lordship said that there was no doubt that, before the intervention of the legislature, courts of equity gave some jurisdiction to relieve tenants against forfeiture for breach of covenant.

From the early nineteenth century until the *Spencers Ltd v Harding* (1973) AC 691 it had been thought that the court had no inherent jurisdiction to grant relief from forfeiture for "fraud" (that is, not due to fraud, accident or mistake) breach of covenant other than the covenant to pay rent or some other specified sum of money.

That was a point of central importance in the case under consideration.

In *Shiloh Spinners* it had been argued that although the covenant and forfeiture provision there in question did not arise as between landlord and tenant, the statutory provisions for relief from forfeiture as between landlord and tenant contained in section 146 of the 1925 Act and its predecessors had implicitly removed the whole equitable jurisdiction to relieve in such cases. The House of Lords had rejected that argument.

The House of Lords having opened up the possibility that the old equitable jurisdiction to relieve from forfeiture for wilful breach was wider than had previously been thought, three cases had recently been decided in which the tenant had claimed that, although there was no statutory jurisdiction to relieve him, relief could be granted to him under the court's old inherent equitable jurisdiction.

In *Official Custodian for Charities v Parway Estates Developments Ltd* (1985) Ch 151 the tenant claimed to be entitled to relief against forfeiture under the inherent jurisdiction but that was rejected by

the Court of Appeal. His Lordship did not understand the court as having decided that section 146 as a whole was inconsistent with there being a continuing equitable jurisdiction to relieve against forfeiture for wilful breach of covenants other than payment of rent.

On the same day as the *Parway* decision, Mr Justice Nicholls had given judgment in *Abbey National Building Society v Mayhew Ltd* (1985) Ch 190. Broadly, the judge had held that the legislature had not stepped into the whole area of relief against forfeiture for breach of tenants' covenants and that accordingly the old equitable jurisdiction to relieve from forfeiture by forcing his way into the premises, he was in a better position than if he had applied to the court for an order for possession.

Had he applied to the court, the tenant would have applied for relief from forfeiture and the court would have granted relief if it was equitable to do so.

But if he took the law into his own hands, and without further warning to the tenant re-took possession of the leased property, no application for relief from forfeiture could then be made. The court was powerless.

The landlord was secure, even if he had used physical force to obtain entry, provided he was careful to see that no one was actually on the property at the time and provided the premises were not let as a dwelling.

That could not be right. Such a conclusion would be an incitement to all landlords to re-enter forcibly whenever they could do so. That would amount to courts granting a charter for forcible re-entry.

If a landlord entered business premises without warning out of business hours, violence was all too likely when the tenant awoke next day to re-open his shop or offices and find himself barred from entry. The policy of the law was to discourage self-help when confrontation and a breach of the peace were likely to follow.

Turning to the statutory power, his Lordship said that *Rogers v Rice* was a decision binding on the court. It was given in a case where the right of re-entry had been enforced by action, but it was equally applicable where the right of re-entry had been enforced by actual re-entry without court action: see *Parkwood*, per Lord Justice Buckley (at p311).

Considering the *Parway* case, his Lordship said that the view that no relief at all could be granted in the cases excluded from the statutory power by section 146(2) was inconsistent with the approach adopted by the Court of Appeal in *Barrow v Isaacs & Son* (1891) 1 QB 417.

It was understood to be the position that between sections 146 and the predecessor sections were enabling provisions which had not superseded the existing jurisdiction of courts of equity, that must have remained the position.

Either section 146, from the outset, had wholly superseded the jurisdiction of the court of equity, or it had not.

In his Lordship's judgment, at their inception the statutory provisions had not wholly superseded that jurisdiction. They had not done so expressly, nor had they done so as a matter of necessary implication.

Faced with conflicting approaches adopted by the Court of Appeal, the court was entitled to choose between them. Given the manifestly unsatisfactory consequences to which the *Parway* interpretation of section 146 led in some cases the court was entitled to and should prefer the interpretation adopted in *Barrow v Isaacs*.

For his part, his Lordship would hold that the court had jurisdiction to entertain the tenants' application for relief. He would therefore proceed to hear the parties on whether relief should be granted and on what terms.

On the other points arising on the appeal his Lordship agreed with the reasoning and conclusions of the Vice-Chancellor.

Lord Justice Parker delivered a judgment concurring with the Vice-Chancellor.

Solicitors: Gouldens, Freer, Cholmeley.

See *Rogers v Rice*. That limitation on the statutory power was inconsistent with the court retaining, outside the statute, a concurrent, open-ended power to grant relief. Therefore, by necessary implication, the statutory power had

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# Time to wield a little finesse

German law firms are taking a new shape, but Edward Fennell suggests they still lack British efficiency

**L**iberalisation, reunification and large mergers are creating new structures and breathing new life into German law firms. However, what appeared to be a creature of great intelligence and strength is beginning to look like a Frankenstein's monster. The pieces are being assembled but they lack co-ordination. The result may be that, as the new-style German law firm stumbles off the laboratory table, its nature remains unchanged, but its body is different.

Axel Salander is with Dabelstein & Pasch, which seems to be the only German firm with a City of London office. He fears that, although German firms are going through the motions of responding to their new circumstances, they have not realised what is needed. "The battle against big international Anglo-American firms is being fought half-heartedly," he says. "In many ways German lawyers are still in the 19th century."

To under-estimate the Germans would, of course, be a mistake. The dozen or so mergers of the past year created the impression of a profession serious about becoming a force in Europe, but close observers are doubting whether much progress is being made.

One legal commentator says of a Hamburg-Frankfurt-Stuttgart merger: "All they have to show for it is a



In perspective: "In many ways German lawyers are still in the 19th century," says Axel Salander, a member of a German firm in the City

more impressive letterhead. The three constituent firms cannot be welded together."

The irony is that German firms are starting to show what are normally regarded as British inefficiency and an absence of marketing finesse. British firms, by contrast, are displaying the German virtues of quality and thoroughness.

Perhaps the most serious criticism of German lawyers is that they lack a sense of service to clients. "Clients are regarded as being

privileged to have a lawyer's services rather than valued for their custom," one German lawyer says. As a result, service is slow and progress is at the lawyer's convenience. He adds: "If a lawyer goes away on holiday during a transaction, it comes to a halt. The lawyer sees no reason why he should pass the job on to anybody else."

In the eyes of their larger clients German lawyers still have a lofty and academic image. Their stiff formality contrasts sharply with the

British first-name "mateyness". In addition, the fast, efficient, large-scale teamwork at which many big American and British firms excel is still largely beyond the Germans.

One motive for the recent German mergers was to mobilise big teams for the largest international work but, as one leading German legal journalist concedes, the geographical distances between the so-called merged firms and the lack of co-ordination make this unlikely. Furthermore, German lawyers do

not, apparently, see training as a way of achieving cultural change. In Britain the firm whose members train together soon develops a common culture, standards and outlook. German lawyers, however, are said to believe that once qualified they have learnt all they need to know. "Further training is regarded as a distraction," one lawyer explains.

So, whatever the weaknesses of British lawyers, they are still probably the most proficient in Europe.

## INNS AND OUTS

### Service in name only?

THE Irish Republic's alleged failure to provide proper legal aid and advice schemes has brought a formal complaint to the European Commission of Human Rights by the Irish Organisation Free Legal Advice Centres (Flac). In 1979 the republic was ordered by the European Court of Human Rights to provide its 3.5 million citizens, more than a third of whom receive welfare benefit, with access to courts and solicitors.

Flac contends that the republic's government has failed to comply with the court's ruling, as the legal aid scheme that was subsequently set up employs only 30 solicitors and excludes many areas of law from its provisions.

Flac is also arguing that the republic is in breach of its obligations under the Treaty of Rome because the failure to provide a legal service is preventing people from obtaining information on and enforcing their rights under European Community law. Four members of the Ireland Legal Aid Board, including Nial Fennelly, the chairman, resigned last year, describing the existing scheme as "unworkable" and "a token service only".

£300 an hour. Referring the inquisitive auditor to the Law Society's golden rules of billing, which allow for a certain vagueness in these matters, will cut little ice.

### Helpful Tones

THE chairman of the Bar Council, Tony Scrivener, QC, and the president of the Law Society, Tony Holland, have been described by the Law Centres Federation as "outstandingly helpful in trying to rally the collective muscle of two arms of the legal profession in support of campaigns against closure and for proper funding of law centres". They are now known affectionately in law centre circles as "the two Tones".

The Law Society's official policy recognises the impact of law centres' work, calling for central funding and supporting the view that access to justice is a national responsibility. Perhaps the Bar Council will follow suit.

### Gin tizz



LIFE in the big City law firms has its advantages. Percy Fox, the premium wines and spirits division of International Distillers & Vintners, wrote to Linklaters & Paines offering sample bottles of its new premium gin, Bombay Sapphire. The gin contains a blend of "grains of paradise, almonds, lemon peel, cubeb and juniper berries, orris and cassia bark". Unfortunately, Percy Fox's marketing consultants sent the letter to the wrong law firm. Although delighted to be mistaken for Linklaters & Paines, the partners at Stephenson Harwood are unsure whether they can claim their free samples, even though gin and tonic is the profession's favourite tipple.

SCRIVENER

## Public protest law that went wrong

CHRIS Cole was prosecuted for helping to arrange a peaceful protest, under the 1986 Public Order Act, which restricted the right to demonstrate by giving the police considerably greater powers.

The police knew about the procession before it began but Mr Cole was arrested for failing to notify the police.

On March 21, 1990, Stephen Hancock and Mike Hutchinson, from a group called Swords into Ploughshares, had cut through the perimeter fence of the US air force base at Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire, and damaged a nuclear bomber. They were

jailed for 15 months. Before the trial, some people involved in Swords into Ploughshares planned to breakfast together and then walk to Oxford Crown Court, where the case was to be heard.

A police officer arrived just as they sat down and Mr Cole and another person told him why they were there and what they intended to do. The officer was later joined by a police inspector. Mr Cole told them two of their friends were in court that day and they had

come to say goodbye. Mr Cole believed the police understood something was planned for that day.

At 9am a group of about 60 set off for the court. Officers watched the march from a side road. The procession was led by Mr Hancock and Mr Hutchinson. Halfway there they stopped to be silent for two minutes and for Mr Cole to read a sermon from Oscar Romero, the archbishop murdered in El Salvador.

There was no violence or other problems. When the group arrived Mr Cole worked with the police to organise people to go into the public gallery. Mr Cole was then arrested and kept in a cell for two hours while the police verified his address. His address is the contact address for Swords into Ploughshares and is on all its literature.

He was summoned to appear in court accused, under section 11 of the Public Order Act 1986, of failing to give notice of a "public procession intended to demonstrate support for the views or actions of any person, or to publicise a cause or campaign".

As far as we know, this was the first use of the provision. After Mr Cole contacted Liberty, we called the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the case was dropped. We are pleased for Mr Cole that such a ridiculous prosecution has now been stopped, but we remain concerned about the attitude of the police in beginning such a case. The right to

demonstrate is a fundamental freedom and should be part of a bill of rights. Meanwhile one hopes that the police will take the same sensible view as the CPS and pretend that section 11 does not exist.

I assumed that the Special Branch had had notice of the procession weeks earlier, which satisfied the advance notice provision. Whether the Special Branch would have helped me to prove this is another matter.

JOHN WADHAM

● The author is the legal officer of Liberty, the former National Council for Civil Liberties.

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One of the largest City firms, with close links internationally and in particular, within Europe, seeks an exceptional intellectual property or EC lawyer with 2-3 years' related experience to join its large and experienced team. The work will encompass trade and competition law, international joint ventures and European Community law. The scope of work and the client base are wide and interesting and the prospects within the firm excellent. Ref: 1809

## PARTNERSHIP PROSPECTS

£ Above average

Progressive, commercial West Country practice seeks senior Solicitor to deal with mixed caseload of civil litigation matters in a busy, established department. The personality of this individual is important to fit in with this diverse and friendly team and to contribute to the development of this medium-sized partnership which will offer equity to the successful individual. Candidates should therefore have good litigation experience and will probably be no less than 5 years' qualified. Ref: 1805

**Reliance Legal - Target for Success**



Please contact  
Clare Titterton at  
53 Doughty Street  
London WC1N 2LS  
Tel (071) 405 4985  
Fax (071) 242 0208

## H.M. Diplomatic Service

## ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISERS

2 Posts - Central London

Legal staff are based in London with frequent opportunities for overseas travel. You may also serve a tour of duty in one of H.M. Missions overseas and advise delegations at international meetings and conferences.

The work involves issues of international and European Community Law, drafting agreements and legislation, conducting negotiations with other governments and international organisations, and handling Human Rights cases. You may also be expected to advise on Constitutional Law and deal with administrative questions concerning overseas dependent territories. The work is highly responsible and you must be able to deal with a wide variety of legal questions.

You will be qualified or about to be qualified as an advocate, barrister or solicitor in any part of the UK, preferably with experience of legal practice or legal research. Reasonable knowledge of French and/or another widely used European language would be an advantage.

Salary: £26,747-£31,559 according to qualifications and experience.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 20 March 1991) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/8796/91.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH  
OFFICE

## Developing Legal Education

Applications are invited for a senior post in the secretariat to the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct, which is being set up under the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990. The Committee has a central role in new arrangements for deciding who has rights of audience or the right to conduct litigation, or can prepare applications for probate. It also has a wide, general advisory role, covering all aspects of the training needed to provide legal services, as well as how they should be regulated.

The post will primarily involve assisting members of the Committee with their work on legal education and training, and supervising its research programme.

The postholder, who will probably have some experience in the teaching of law or a related subject, will have to be confident in the speedy handling of information, and able to present it in a concise and readily digestible form. A proven record of stimulating and effective research, particularly quantitative research, and the direction of research by others, would be a significant advantage. He or she will need the ability to work and communicate

effectively with a wide range of people inside and outside the legal profession. Some administrative experience, especially of committee work, would also be useful.

The Committee will be based in central London. The appointment will be for a period of 2 - 3 years which may be renewed once.

The terms and conditions of service will be broadly similar to those of a Grade 7 in the Home Civil Service. The salary will be on the scale £24,641-£29,049, including London weighting, and the post will be pensionable.

For further information about the appointment and an application form, please telephone Alistair Shaw on 071-210 4573 or Brenda Griffith-Williams on 071-210 4571 or write to: The Secretary, The Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education & Conduct, 2nd Floor, Golden Cross House, Duncannon Street, London WC2N 4JF

Completed application forms must be returned by 19 March 1991.

The Committee is an Equal Opportunities employer.

## Litigation Solicitors

Masons, Bristol

We are an international law firm with an excellent reputation in a number of specialist fields including construction and engineering, property litigation, planning and environmental law.

We are looking for two solicitors with up to two years post qualification experience to assist with the continued and rapid expansion of our Bristol office. Applicants should be of above average ability, have good general litigation experience, an enthusiasm to specialise in construction, property litigation and environmental law and an outgoing personality that will fit happily with our existing team. We would welcome applications from solicitors within the area or those wishing to relocate.

If you would like to meet the exciting career challenge we can offer please telephone or write to Bonnie Martin, Masons, Broad Street House, 5-6 Broad Street, Bristol BS1 2BW. Telephone 0272 226622.



Also at London, Leathershead, Manchester, Hong Kong, Beijing, Grand Cayman, Cairo

## City West End

## PARTNERS WITH FOLLOWING

There is a steady and continuing demand for partners and senior solicitors in all disciplines who can demonstrate a significant following of clients. Our instructions come from firms of all sizes throughout London who are looking to complement and/or expand their own areas of practice.

## PRIVATE CLIENT

A well-known progressive London firm has instructed us to introduce a solicitor with up to two years' PQE for its established private client department. The range of work has an emphasis on trusts, will drafting, estate planning and consideration of tax implications.

## PERSONAL INJURY

An established central London practice has an urgent need for a solicitor qualified up to two years for its litigation department. He/she must have a sound grounding in defendant personal injury work and will join a friendly and informal team where there are excellent prospects of advancement.

## Out of London

## CONSTRUCTION LAWYER

An excellent practice in the North of England needs an additional Construction Lawyer. The successful applicant will have up to two years' PQE with an interest in building/construction and engineering litigation.

## Law Personnel

Staff specialists to the legal profession worldwide  
95 Aldwych, London WC2B 4JF Tel: 071-242 1281  
Fax: 071-631 2901 (answerphone after office hours)

## Intellectual Property - Newly qual +- to £35,000

Large City firm requires a solicitor/barrister either newly qualified or with experience to handle predominantly patents and trade marks for clients ranging from engineering to biotechnology companies. A science background is required.

## Employment - 1 year + qual - to £50,000

City firm requires a solicitor/barrister to handle a mixed caseload of employment and general commercial litigation. Employment litigation will constitute the majority of the workload. Excellent quality of work and prospects.

## Aviation Finance - 2 or 3 years qual - to £45,000

Progressive aviation based City firm requires a solicitor 2/3 years qualified to replace a member of the department who is joining one of the firm's overseas offices. The position has excellent long term prospects and carries a substantial financial package.

## Commercial Litigation - 2-3 years qual - £40,000

Small London practice of a larger international firm seeks a solicitor between 2 and 3 years qualified to handle large international disputes for PLC clients and a broad commercial litigation caseload.

## Company/Commercial - 2-3 years qual - £42,000

A small but very commercial City practice requires an additional solicitor 2-3 years qualified to handle company/commercial work for public/USM listed companies. A good knowledge of yellow/time book regulations is important.

## Pensions - 1-3 years qual - £45,000

A highly successful pension based City firm seeks a lawyer with pensions experience to advise companies and trustees on pension aspects of takeovers and investments and other pension related matters. Excellent long term prospects.

## Insolvency - 5 years + qual - £60,000 +

A medium sized law practice requires a partner with at least 5 years experience to coordinate the insolvency work currently handled by three partners. The firm currently acts for some of the City's best known receivers.

## Shipping Litigation - Partner Level - £ Neg

A medium sized international City firm is seeking to further develop its established marine department. The successful candidate will have considerable general experience of shipping litigation; either 'wet' or 'dry'. A following would be advantageous.

## Garfield Robbins

Legal Recruitment Consultants, 21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH  
Nicholas Robbins or Gavin Crocker on (071) 405 1123 or evenings (081) 646 4955

LAW GRADUATES -  
TRAIN IN CORPORATE  
TAX CONSULTANCY

NATIONWIDE TO £16,000

Opportunities exist within international accountancy firms nationwide to specialise in corporate taxation. Locations include: BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, CARDIFF, LEEDS, LEICESTER, LIVERPOOL, LONDON, MANCHESTER and NOTTINGHAM.

Using your analytical and problem-solving skills you will be trained to advise companies on the financial and legal implications of buy-outs, acquisitions and mergers as well as assisting smaller growing businesses.

Applications are invited from recent graduates with strong numerical skills and a minimum of 2:1 degree and 12 UCCA points.

For further information contact BARBARA PALLER on 071 404 3155 or send your CV to him at ALDERWICK PEACHELL & PARTNERS, 125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QA (Rec Cont).

Principal Assistant  
Solicitors

£22,989-£26,625 (under review)

Assistant Solicitors/  
Senior Assistant  
Solicitors

£20,937-£22,473 (under review)

FULL TIME OR JOB SHARE

We have just reorganised our legal section and are looking for solicitors or barristers to join the Social Services Teams.

The two Principal Assistant Solicitors will act as Team Leaders with Lawyers and Legal Executives working to them. The work will involve managing a team and assisting in the provision of a legal service to the Social Services Department. We are looking for applicants who can demonstrate an ability to manage a significant workload of child care and associated case work both on their own part and, by appropriate delegation and guidance, their team members.

The two Assistant/Senior Assistant Solicitors will be working within these teams primarily on child care litigation but will also have the opportunity to advise other County Departments and undertake more general litigation work.

For all posts we are looking for hard working, enthusiastic lawyers. Applicants must have good communication and interpersonal skills. Experience is required for the team leader posts but we are prepared to train newly qualified lawyers for (the work associated with) the Assistant Solicitor posts.

There is a generous relocation package worth around £5,000 plus full removal costs and temporary accommodation may be available.

For an informal discussion telephone Phil Thomson on (0245) 492211 ext. 20420.

Application forms and further details are available from County Personnel Officer, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1LX. Telephone: (0245) 432101. Please quote post number C259 for Team Leader posts or C125 for Assu/Snr Asst posts.

Closing date: 15th March, 1991.

**Essex County Council**  
Chief Executive  
and Clerk

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# Art of papering over the cracks of time

A conservation specialist needs the skill of an artist and the analytical mind of a scientist. The right people are in short supply, Bernardine Coverley writes

A silver gilt hairpin from the Ming dynasty lies under the microscope in the workshops at the Victoria & Albert museum. A student on placement from the Royal College of Art's new conservation course puts on white cotton gloves and takes a fine pick to remove ancient dirt and verdigris. Several weeks of painstaking work will be needed to reveal its beauty and analyse the particular alloy composition.

Finally, the hairpin will be treated to keep it in this newly conserved state. Every step in the process must be fully recorded as every detail helps to increase understanding in the expanding discipline of conservation. Paintings and furniture have been receiving care and attention, but other branches of the arts have needs of their own. Whether clothes or theatre posters, they are at risk not only from age but from less obvious environmental influences such as humidity

and varying temperatures. The conservator must be a specialist in one basic material: metal, textiles, ceramics or paper. Conservation is one of the rare professions in which art and science work together. Courses such as those at the college provide chemistry studies, practical supervised workshop training and the study of decorative arts in their historical settings.

Diana Heath, who is responsible for the V&A's department of metal conservation, says: "Primarily, we try to stabilise the state of an object. Signs of ageing and decay can, however, add to our understanding of an object's history, so knowing when to stop is not easy."

Nearby lies a bronze mirror decorated with shining, fine gold tracery. One can hardly believe that the mirror has been buried for hundreds of years, but the reflecting side, made mainly of tin, will keep some of the corroded blotches to indicate its age.

Other materials are more

vulnerable. With textiles, for example, the conservator aims to present a tapestry or a coat made of fur and silk so that neither the arrested damage nor the conservation work should be obvious to the museum visitor. The use of computers is also an important aid to assess tone and depth of colour and to create simulated reconstructions.

Mary Goodwin, one of the National Trust's five conservation advisers, points out that even light can be a prime cause of deterioration.

Most of the historic houses run by the trust close for part of the year to protect the contents on view. In accordance with the advisers' guidelines, everything is cleaned, covered and left in the dark until the next opening. A team of "housekeepers", most of whom have a background in conservation, supervise house staff.

Miss Goodwin specialises in paper, a deceptively simple material, which includes wall-papers and prints, the former liable to fade and attractive to both silverfish and woodworm. After many years in the background, wallpaper is now coming under increased attention. There is even a wallpaper history society.



Wall-to-wall conservation: Merryll Huxtable, of the Victoria & Albert museum, examines wallpaper from 1864

"With 200 houses to tend," Miss Goodwin says, "you can imagine the number of papered rooms, all subject to the decaying influence of dust, damp and accidents."

The first wallpaper project was established by the trust when a burst radiator damaged the Chinese wallpaper of a Chippendale interior.

Valuable old wallpaper was often hung on stretchers, and then attached to the wall. In these cases, the paper can be taken to a workshop. Inevitably, some work has to be done on site. Conservators need an unusual combination of skills. Potential students must have good colour vision and are expected to have training damaged prints for a private

dealer. Miss Huxtable, the senior conservation officer at the V&A, says: "Much of my practical work is preparing old master prints, Valentine cards or oriental screens for loans and exhibitions. Usually they need only minor attention, but I like the challenge of working on something that has been mouldering away in a basement. That is exciting and difficult."

She is surveying a store of set designs by Oliver Messel, but a 17th century wallpaper from Ham House, Richmond, Surrey, is the current demanding project. "At present, it has brown stains and wavy patches and acidic damage, and is very dirty," she says. Studio work is only part of the job. A day can include time in the print room, where Miss Huxtable gives conservation advice on visitors' prints. She also supervises preventive work such as remounting the prints the public are permitted to handle. Miss Huxtable can also find herself on loan as a consultant to private conservation companies.

For details of options on the joint Royal College of Art and V&A museum's MA course contact: Alan Cummings at RCA, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2EU. The "Training in Conservation" guide to courses in the UK (price £2) is available from: Conservation Unit, Museums & Galleries Commission, 16 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1 9AA.

## LEGAL APPOINTMENTS



### ROAD TRANSPORT INDUSTRY TRAINING BOARD

## SENIOR LEGAL ASSISTANT

Salary Range: £16,571 - £20,040 pa One Year Contract

The Board Solicitor wishes to recruit a Senior Legal Assistant. The main functions of the post are:

- to be responsible for all debt recovery litigation in the County Court and High Court;
- to supervise a small section of Legal Assistants;
- to represent the Board before the County Court Registrar and High Court Master.

Applicants should:

- preferably be Fellows or Associates of the Institute of Legal Executives;
- have sound knowledge and experience of County Court and High Court debt recovery litigation and advocacy before the County Court Registrar;
- have experience in a supervisory/managerial role.

Remuneration within the above salary range will be according to experience and qualifications.

Please telephone for more information and an application form, quoting Ref No. 3068 to: Personnel Department, RTITB, Capitol House, Empire Way, Wembley, HA9 0NG, Tel: 081 902 8880 Ext. 2318.

## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

£43,000 + Benefits

EALING

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE PRIORITY SERVICES

High calibre General Manager sought to manage the Community and Mental Health Units and provide innovative and strong leadership for priority services in Ealing. Excellent opportunity to take on major responsibilities with the exciting challenge for deciding upon the shape and direction of priority services in the 1990's.

### THE JOB

- Manage priority services in Ealing which currently have a budget in excess of £30m, through the establishment of local management arrangements and systems.
- Prepare and lay the foundations for Trust status, deciding upon the optimum configuration to take forward taking into account services within and outside the District.
- Lead the strategic planning of services in light of the NHS reforms.

### THE PERSON

- Natural leader, team builder and effective communicator, who can motivate and inspire people from different professions and agencies.
- Will understand the new competitive environment and be able to develop an organisation that will prosper into the 1990s.
- Must have a strong affinity to priority services and clearly understand the opportunities presented by the impact of the NHS reforms on community, primary and social care.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Mark Rees, District General Manager, Ealing Health Authority, telephone 081 574 2444, ext 5472. Further information is available from Fiona Kergoat, Assistant District General Manager, ext 5661, to whom CVs should be returned by 11th March 1991.

## LONDON LAW APPOINTMENTS

### BANKING £45,000

Medium sized Central London practice requires a career minded solicitor to become involved with general banking matters, both domestic and international. Well established department with excellent prospects. Please call Sarah Kaye.

### PROPERTY £35,000

Opportunity for an ambitious, client minded lawyer to immediately become involved with a prestigious clientele operating under minimum supervision helping to develop the London office of this respected national firm. Good academic background with sound career progression required. Please call Teresa Adrian.

### PROPERTY £55,000

One of the West End's most respected practices requires a more senior commercial conveyancer with a positive approach and proven ability to handle a heavy caseload of challenging property matters for international financial institutions, property companies, banks and entrepreneurs. Please call John Chapman.

### CO/COMMERCIAL 1-3 PQE

An innovative solicitor with a developed business acumen is sought by this well respected City Practice to handle a variety of company and commercial work for a prestigious clientele. Excellent training and a well structured career path are on offer for the successful candidate. Please call Teresa Adrian.

### CONSTRUCTION EQUITY

Ambitious and unfilled? Broaden your horizons and develop your expertise with a firm that can offer the opportunity to reach the peak of your profession. As head of a small but well established construction unit, you will develop existing clients and provide the training, supervision and management required to enable this practice to become a leader in this field. Please call John Stokes.

### PENSIONS £60,000

If you feel undervalued and uncertain of your future, then this medium sized Holborn practice will enable you to develop your own specialist section within the firm, servicing a solid and varied company client base. Please call John Stokes.

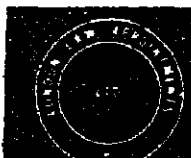
### INSURANCE LIT L/EXEC

Progressive West End practice requires a legal exec with previous experience to join a busy team handling motor accident and insurance claims for leading insurers. Ideal candidate will be aged 24-32. Good salary and benefits. Please call Sarah Kaye.

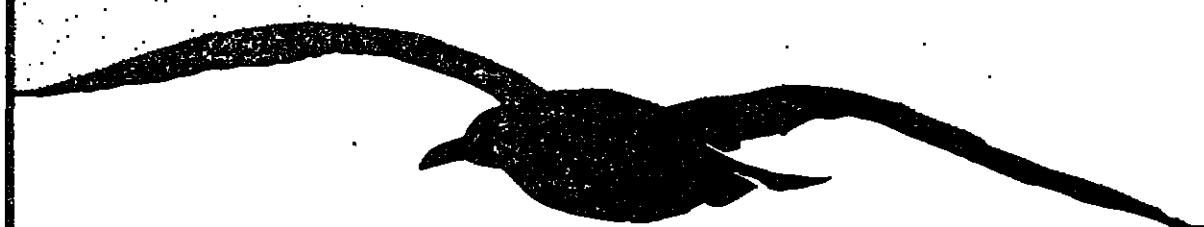
### LITIGATION £40,000

An excellent opportunity to move to one of the major City firms for a 1-3 years qualified commercial litigator. You will be assured only the best in clients, training and career prospects. Please call John Chapman.

Details of applicants are never disclosed to firms without prior consent.



3rd Floor, 41 Kingsway  
London WC2B 6UD  
Telephone 071 497 1112  
Fax 071 497 0406



## Chief Executive UP TO £52,000 INCLUSIVE

The northern isles of Shetland occupy a prominent position within the geography and economy of the United Kingdom. The discovery of oil also provided the base for significant development of the Islands' economy and infrastructure. This process of opportunity and development continues.

One of the most important and influential opportunities to arise is the position of CHIEF EXECUTIVE of the Shetland Islands Council.

Shetland Islands Council, a single tier authority, is the largest and one of the most progressive employers in the area. It is responsible for the functions carried out on the mainland by both regional and district authorities.

As Chief Executive you will lead and direct your colleagues in this important work, developing and ensuring activities in response to Council policies and community needs.

You will manage a complex organisation and, as Head of Paid Service, work with a variety of local and national agencies and companies and, of course, Council Members.

Proven achievement must relate to this local authority environment and strong communication and interpersonal skills are required.

In return we will provide a competitive salary including a substantial relocation package, leaving you to enjoy the benefits of living and working in a beautiful and unspoilt environment.

If you are up to the challenge of a job which demands initiative, leadership and true commitment to the Shetland Islands, write or phone now for a full information pack, video and specification to: The Personnel Manager, Personnel Department, FREEPOST, 17 South Road, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0YV, or telephone our FREEPHONE number 0800 83 83 84.



T H E R E S A L O T G O I N G O N

## BRITISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The BDA is the professional association and trade union for dentists. We require an Administrative Assistant to support our activities in negotiations for all sections of the profession.

The person appointed will service national committees and assist individual members. The post will be based in London but some travelling will be required.

Experience of committee servicing and the ability to write clearly and concisely to tight deadlines are essential. Any experience of negotiating or of NHS or other conditions of service is desirable.

Salary starting at £13,678 pa.

Applications, including full CV, should be sent to Dr B.C. Patterson, Under Secretary, British Dental Association, 64 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AL. The closing date for applications is 8 March 1991.

Further details may be obtained by telephoning on 071-935 0875 extension 242.

## LEGAL

## TEACHING FELLOWSHIP IN LAW

GONVILLE & CAIUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

Applications are invited for a Fellowship and College Lectureship in Law. The successful candidate will be required to teach at undergraduate level for 10 hours per week in Full Term in three subjects. The stipend will be roughly comparable to that of Assistant Lecturers in the University of Cambridge (currently the stipend for a non-resident Fellow without a University post is within the range of £13,988 to £18,651 per annum). The appointment will be for three years in the first instance with the possibility of re-appointment for a further two years and thereafter further re-appointment to the retiring age. It is hoped that the person appointed can take up the Fellowship on 1st October, 1991.

Further particulars should be obtained from the Master's Secretary (tel: 0223 332431). Applications should be sent to the Master by 20th March, 1991.

The college welcomes applications from both men and women.



















